

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

IN SUPPORT OF TOM DeLAY

**HON. TOM FEENEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, as a former Speaker of the Florida House where the ethics process was never partisan, I have been saddened and disappointed at some of the wild ethics charges made by billionaire socialists and repeated by Democratic Members.

Let me say, there is no greater ethical sin by a Member, and no greater poison to our Congress, than to make false ethical charges against another Member for partisan gain.

The Democratic leadership has created a fog machine to attack TOM DELAY. They claim that the Democratic fog blown at the Leader is smoke; and insist that where there is smoke there must be a fire.

For three months Democratic leaders, while smearing our Leader, have instructed their 5 members of the Ethics Committee to kill the ethics process.

Yesterday, Chairman HASTINGS offered to hear allegations against the Leader. The Democratic attack machine refused, pandering to billionaire socialists who are organizing this attack not just on TOM DELAY, but the U.S. House itself.

Democrats realize their liberal agenda cannot give them a majority in this House. Realizing they cannot rule the U.S. House of Representatives, Democrats are determined to ruin it.

**RAY CHARLES POST OFFICE  
BUILDING**

SPEECH OF

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, it greatly pleases me that Congress has decided to name the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4960 West Washington Boulevard in Los Angeles, California after Ray Charles. He fully deserves this honor, and I congratulate Congresswoman DIANE WATSON for sponsoring this successful and appropriate legislation.

In a career that spanned more than 50 years, Ray Charles enjoyed immense fame in the U.S. and abroad. His music unified people, crossing all lines of nationality, race, age and class. His music was universal in appeal and style, from gospel to country and everything in between. Sightless, he uniquely opened the eyes of all people to appreciate the beauty and talent of others.

He saw no differences in the aspirations of all people for freedom and justice. He advocated with equal vigor on behalf of African Americans for civil rights, freedom for South Africans and security for the people of Israel.

In his own life, he overcame blindness, poverty, racial discrimination, and personal failures, including drug abuse, to become a beacon of hope for anyone faced with challenges of any kind.

Ray Charles deserves to have a post office named after him, and more. I have introduced legislation that would award him the Congressional Gold Medal for his lifetime of achievement and service to the world community. I hope Congress supports this legislation and continues to honor this great man.

TRIBUTE TO UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

**HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Many people have recently seen and heard a lot of well deserved praise for the university's men's basketball team as Coach Bruce Weber guided the team to a record tying 37-2 record and place in the National Championship game. The season brought a great sense of pride to me, my staff, the university, the Urbana-Champaign community, and State as a whole. This praise was not only as a result of the great accomplishments of the team, but the manner in which the team went about achieving its goals. The players played with such heart and determination, all the while truly playing unselfishly as one cohesive unit, not as individual players. I would ask my colleagues to take this opportunity to congratulate and honor Coach Weber, his staff, and the young men who put on the uniforms and played the game the way it was meant to be played.

While many Americans may have first been exposed to the university during this special basketball season, I have had the distinct privilege to represent the university for almost 30 years; first as a State Representative and now as a Congressman from the 15th District of Illinois. I would therefore like to rise today to also pay tribute and bring recognition to the other highly successful athletic programs and the highly recognized and honored academics at the university.

Mr. Speaker, this year alone the university has been honored to be represented by the nationally ranked No. 2 men's tennis team, the No. 3 men's gymnastics team, the No. 6 men's wrestling team, the No. 14 women's soccer team, and the No. 20 women's cross country team. Let me take this time to honor and thank Coach Craig Tile, Coach Yoshi Hayasaki, Coach Mark Johnson, Coach Janet Rayfield, Coach Karen Harvey, and all of the young men and women who have strived for greatness and brought a great deal of pride to me, my staff, the Urbana-Champaign community, and the university.

While these are all great accomplishments, without the same degree of success in the

academic realm, these feats would all be for naught. I am proud to say that the university, President B. Joseph White, Director of Athletics Ron Guenther, the faculty, the coaches, and the students at the University of Illinois have all made this one of the top academic institutions in the world and its graduates some of the most successful. In 2004 U.S. News & World Report ranked many undergraduate programs at Urbana-Champaign campus in their Top 10 in the country, including: accountancy, 1st, materials science, 1st, civil engineering, 2nd, computer engineering, 5th, real estate, 7th, and marketing, 10th. In 2003, the University of Illinois earned the distinction of being the only U.S. public university to have two of its faculty members, Anthony J. Leggett, physics, and Paul C. Lauterbur, medicine, win Nobel prizes in the same year. The list of distinguished alumni is far too long to include here, but it includes: CEO's, government officials, world class researchers, astronauts, and Pulitzer Prize winners, to name a just a few.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to everyone who is involved in the University of Illinois and to thank them for their dedication, hard work, and vision to make the 15th Congressional District, the State of Illinois, the Nation, and the world as a whole a better place to live for all of us.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT  
OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, April 20, 2005*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today I speak with mixed emotions, while passage of a comprehensive energy bill is important, there is still work to be done on the bill before us. Please do not misunderstand me, there are good aspects to the bill. For example, the bill provides for much needed advances in energy efficiency, renewable energy, and nuclear. While I understand the rationale behind a structured rule, it is unfortunate, that all the amendments offered could not be ruled in order. This would have allowed for much needed debate in our attempt to solve our Nation's energy crisis. In our efforts to pass a comprehensive bill, we must not overlook the importance of keeping dialogue open on all fronts.

I would like to take a moment to mention my essential amendments that were not ruled in order. My first amendment would have required that a report be submitted, every two years, to Congress by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with other appropriate Federal agencies, assessing the contents of natural gas and oil deposits at existing drilling sites off the coast of Louisiana and Texas. This amendment should have been ruled in

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

order because new supplies are vital to long-term economic stability and to current and future employment. Exploration of the Western Gulf of Mexico will permit access to one of our largest sources of oil.

Among other things my second amendment was designed to ensure that the large fluctuations in the price of transportation fuels will not continue to pose significant impediments to budget planning for consumers, businesses, and Federal, State and local governments. Despite the fact this amendment was not ruled in order, it is crucial that there be established a sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Energy, acting through the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration, should commence an immediate investigation on the causes of high gasoline prices in the United States and, in collaboration with the petroleum industry and the Congress, develop a solution to such prices.

Finally, my third amendment would have given Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCU, the opportunity to develop new and existing programs in the area of alternative energy technologies. In our Nation's effort to become more energy independent, it is critical that we allow for as much research and development as possible. African Americans have made outstanding contributions to the energy industry and I see no reason not to allow them to make even more contributions now.

Mr. Speaker, while I support many aspects of the bill, I oppose the rule.

CONGRATULATING MATHILDA  
SHEPTAK ON 40 YEARS IN THE  
TOURISM INDUSTRY

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask you and my esteemed colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating my good friend Mathilda Sheptak as she marks her 40th year in the tourism industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mathilda was born into the hospitality field. Her family ran a boarding house with a restaurant and gas station in Lakewood, New Jersey. Mathilda is the daughter of Louis and Catherine Barravecchia. Mathilda is married to Steve Sheptak, a retired IBM sales and marketing executive.

When Mathilda was eleven years old, her family bought the Overlook Inn in Canadensis. The tourism industry was the dominant business in the rural Poconos.

At this time, Pocono resorts were open from Memorial Day to Columbus Day. The family resort had 30 rooms and no liquor license. Guests were served three meals a day. Entertainment revolved around card games, cookouts, a pool table, and eventually, a swimming pool.

Mathilda thrived on meeting the guests and developing interpersonal relationships with the families who would return year after year. Mathilda grew up with the "resort brats"—the children of all the other resort owners. During the off-season, these families worked to improve their resorts and planned for the coming season.

Mathilda attended Pocono Mountain High School and was part of its first graduating class. She attended East Stroudsburg University and then worked at a corporation that manufactured products for IBM.

Mathilda joined the Pocono Mountain Vacation Bureau on February 1, 1965, as a secretary and subsequently moved up to office manager. She eventually took over the No. 2 spot at PMVB, and has been deputy executive director ever since. In this position, she is responsible for the budget, environmental planning, financing and statewide issues.

Forty years in tourism is a testament to Mathilda's love of the Pocono region. I am fortunate to have worked with such a dedicated individual in promoting the tourism industry.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Mathilda Sheptak on this milestone and wishing her many more successful years. Tourism remains the area's largest industry and Mathilda is a big part of that legacy.

IN RECOGNITION OF QUINCY BOCK  
FOR RECEIVING THE GOLD  
AWARD FROM THE GIRL SCOUTS

HON. RANDY "DUKE" CUNNINGHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my constituent Quincy Bock of Senior Troop #1107 as she receives the honor of a Gold Award from the Girl Scouts.

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that a Girl Scout may earn. It is not an honor given lightly. The young women who receive this award must demonstrate leadership skills, organizational skills, and sense of community and commitment. Quincy Bock exhibited all these skills with her Gold Award Project, a Resource for Refugees, for The Nile Sisters, a non-profit organization that helps refugee families become self-reliant through education and support.

Quincy successfully created three databases and produced two pieces of literature for The Nile Sisters to use in helping refugee families. The databases Quincy designed and the training she gave the organization will greatly increase the organization's efficiency. In addition, the pamphlet she created has already generated a number of donations and offers of assistance. Because of Quincy's direct contribution, The Nile Sisters will be able to better serve refugee families seeking a better life here in America.

I am proud to recognize Quincy Bock's achievements. She is a shining example of the promise of the next generation. She has already set what I hope is the foundation for a lifetime of active citizenship. I congratulate Quincy and her family on this momentous occasion.

INTRODUCTION OF RETIREMENT  
SECURITY ACT OF 2005

HON. THOMAS E. PETRI

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Retirement Security Act of 2005.

This bill addresses the financing problems facing the Social Security Trust Fund through the creation of Personal Social Security Investment Accounts for each newborn child. This plan would establish a mechanism for reducing the long term fiscal pressures facing Social Security without changing the current benefit structure or diverting payroll taxes from the Trust Fund.

My bill seeks to use the benefits of the private market to place Social Security on a sound financial footing, as do a number of other reform plans. But more than that, I seek to maximize the magic of compound interest by opening savings accounts for future retirees as soon as they are born. Under the Retirement Security Act, the Federal government would create a personal investment account for each newborn American child with an initial government contribution of \$1,000. The account would be invested in any of the funds available to Federal employees through the Thrift Savings Plan, and earnings would accrue tax free. Account holders, or the parents of minor account holders, would be free to make additional pre-tax contributions to these accounts and enjoy the opportunity to invest in these safe and well-managed investment accounts.

At retirement, each retiree would qualify for the same Social Security benefit as earned under the current Social Security system. Benefits would be paid first from each worker's personal account, and payments from the Trust Fund would begin only after the balance of the personal account had been depleted. Those who take advantage of the opportunity to make additional contributions may well find their balance in excess of the amount needed to fund their Social Security benefits, and these funds would belong to the individual investor. My bill provides a variety of options, including lump sum distributions and the purchase of life annuities with level or inflation-adjusted monthly payments for disposition of the surplus balance.

An initial contribution of \$1,000 invested today that grows at the average combined rate of return of the five Thrift Savings Plan investment options would grow to an inflation adjusted balance of \$58,000 by retirement at age 67. For purposes of comparison, this amount would be enough to purchase an annuity with a monthly payment equal to 46 percent of the today's average Social Security retirement benefit. A single matching payment of \$1,000 by a parent on the occasion of their child's birth would endow an account which would produce almost 100 percent of the average benefit and, perhaps just as important, give that child the gift of a lifelong savings vehicle which offers the potential of greater financial security in retirement than can be provided by Social Security alone.

Clearly, the focus of my legislation is long-term. Social Security's fiscal problems will begin to pinch long before children born today are ready to retire. By now, we're all familiar with the projections provided in the annual report of the Social Security Board of Trustees. The Trustees have forecast that our current Social Security surpluses will turn to deficits by 2017 and that the bonds collecting in the Social Security Trust Fund will be fully redeemed by 2041. At that time, it's anticipated that payroll taxes will be sufficient only to pay 74 percent of expected retirement benefits. Though my legislation would make no other

changes to Social Security, when combined with other reasonable reform ideas, it can provide a component of a comprehensive solution to Social Security's long and shorter-term financial problems.

We've reached an important moment in the life of the Social Security program. It's obvious that we need to bring more money into the system to keep the promises we've made and to allow us to continue to offer some measure of retirement security. Personal investment accounts are one way to bolster the system, yet they have become the object of too much criticism and much disinformation. Many of our constituents have become concerned that the diversion of payroll tax revenue into personal accounts of today's workers will threaten the benefits of current retirees. A campaign is being waged which fosters these fears and may prevent the adoption of even those personal accounts which have no impact on the Social Security Trust Fund.

My bill provides the opportunity for Congress to demonstrate that it can implement a system of personal accounts without diverting payroll taxes and that will build retirement savings for future generations without enriching stock brokers or introducing unacceptable investment risk to American workers. As the success of these personal accounts become apparent, growing numbers of Americans will have greater confidence in this avenue of reform, presenting opportunities to expand the use of personal accounts. The time has come for us to take this important step forward, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

IN RECOGNITION OF LOUISIANA'S  
256TH ARMY NATIONAL GUARD  
AND SUPPORT FOR EFFORTS TO  
ASSIST IRAQI CITIZENS

**HON. CHARLES W. BOUSTANY, JR.**

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work that members of our armed forces are doing in Iraq. Too often, the news from Iraq is of attacks from insurgents, the political difficulties of forming a new democracy and international political gamesmanship. I want to highlight one effort by our troops to befriend the Iraqi citizens and demonstrate our commitment to democracy and freedom.

Sgt. Martin Schulthess is a member of the 256th Battalion of the Army National Guard and he is a paramedic with Acadian Ambulance Service. In patrols through Iraq, he and his troops have been able to earn the trust and friendship of the Iraqi citizens. After suffering under Saddam Hussein, they are struggling to create a civil society without fear of torture, imprisonment or death. These Iraqis know American and coalition forces support their efforts to govern themselves. They support the elimination of terrorist insurgents and former Baath Party members who do not want to establish a new government.

Sgt. Schulthess attributes a measure of his success to the small gifts he distributes to Iraqi children. These small hand-outs help to build the trust of the Iraqi people and gain their assistance. The ability of Sgt. Schulthess and the 256th Battalion to build and maintain

these relationships has provided valuable intelligence to enhance the safety of our troops from Southwest Louisiana.

I am proud to represent Southwest Louisiana and the home of the 256th. I know the families and friends of these soldiers are ready for them to return home. Soldiers like Sgt. Schulthess set an example that all of Acadiana and Louisiana can be proud of. The kind of ingenuity, creativity, and initiative demonstrated by our troops will help to bring them home safely after planting the seeds of democracy in Iraq.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AMERICAN LEGACY FOUNDATION ON  
WINNING THE UNITED STATES  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION  
AGENCY'S CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL  
HEALTH EXCELLENCE  
AWARD

**HON. MARTIN T. MEEHAN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the American Legacy Foundation for being selected as a final winner in the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Environmental Health Awards.

The widespread use of tobacco and devastating effects of secondhand smoke contribute to a serious environmental health risk for America's children. Since its inception 5 years ago, the American Legacy Foundation, a non-profit health organization dedicated to building a world where young people reject tobacco and anyone can quit, has implemented several innovative outreach initiatives and programs to discourage adult and youth tobacco use and reduce the effects of secondhand smoke.

Passive exposure through secondhand smoke puts children at risk for a range of health consequences including asthma, ear infections, bronchitis, pneumonia, reduced lung function, respiratory infection, and other chronic respiratory symptoms. According to current population survey data, 13.8 million kids ages 0 to 17 are exposed to secondhand smoke and 22 percent of middle school students and 24 percent of high school students are exposed to secondhand smoke in the home.

The American Legacy Foundation has launched key initiatives to address the negative health effects of tobacco. The Foundation has designed public awareness campaigns and initiatives to educate and empower youth to take action against the environmental health threat from smoking and secondhand smoke.

Some of the Foundation's most successful programs include truth<sup>®</sup>, the Youth Speakers Bureau, the Youth Advisory Panel and the Statewide Youth Movement Against Tobacco Use (Youth Empowerment) Grants.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage my colleagues to join with me to congratulate the American Legacy Foundation for their progress in successfully reducing youth smoking and for receiving the Environmental Protection Agency's Children's Environmental Health Award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. ANDREWS. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I missed nine votes on April 20th, 2005. The votes were on amendments to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (H.R. 6). Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 115, 116, 117, 118, 120, 121, 122, and 123. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 119.

THE READING FAILURE  
PREVENTION ACT OF 2005

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2005. This bill would authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to States to establish statewide screening programs for children who are 5 to 7 years of age to help prevent reading failure.

Reading failure is pervasive. Declining test scores in reading have been noted in many states. Just as troubling, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, 37 percent of our nation's 4th graders and 26 percent of 8th graders score below the basic reading level.

The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2005 would help address this crisis by authorizing grants to States for screening incoming students for dyslexia or other reading failure traits. It also would provide adequate professional development for personnel who administer the screening programs. Dyslexia, often referred to as a language-based learning disability, is the most common form of learning disability.

Recently, approximately 15 percent to 20 percent of the population was reported to have a learning disability and the National Institutes of Health reported that 60 percent to 80 percent of those with learning disabilities have problems with reading and language skills. Predictions for the coming decades indicate that the number of children with learning disabilities will increase for associated social, economic, and educational reasons.

In spite of the fact that reading success in early grades is an essential basis for success in later grades, current methods of identifying children as learning disabled rely on a "wait and fail" model, where children must demonstrate severe academic problems before receiving help. The Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2005 would end this cycle by providing early screening so that appropriate intervention can begin immediately.

Because reading disorders, such as dyslexia, often affect oral language functioning, individuals with these disorders are at a disadvantage as they enter their adolescent years, when language becomes more central to their peer relationships.

If these students do not receive proper intervention, they can begin to experience academic failure and a host of social and emotional problems. However, when trained professionals catch learning disorders such as

dyslexia early, learning strategies and proper treatment can help them to succeed academically and to develop a positive self-image.

I firmly believe that this legislation represents a step in the right direction toward ensuring that our nation's children are adequately prepared for lifelong reading success. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort by co-sponsoring the Reading Failure Prevention Act of 2005.

**FREEDOM FOR LUIS ENRIQUE  
FERRER GARCÍA**

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about Luis Enrique Ferrer García, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Ferrer García is a peaceful pro-democracy activist who desires to bring freedom, democracy, and human rights to Cuba. He is also a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. Because he believes that freedom is the birthright of every person, he has been repeatedly harassed and detained by the nightmare that is the Castro regime. According to Amnesty International, in December 1999 he was sentenced to 6 months "restricted freedom."

In March 2003, as part of Castro's heinous island wide crackdown on peaceful prodemocracy activists, Mr. Ferrer García was arrested by the dictatorship. In a sham trial he was sentenced to 28 years in the totalitarian gulag.

According to reports, Mr. Ferrer García was transferred to a "punishment cell" for having refused a military salute to a prison official. These punishment cells are the very depths of depravity. According to the Department of State's Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004: "punishment cells," were located in the basement of a prison, with continuous semi dark conditions, no available water, and a hole for a toilet. Reading materials, including Bibles, were not allowed. . . . Prisoners in punishment cells had no access to lawyers."

Mr. Ferrer García was eventually released from this "punishment cell" because of a hunger strike carried out on his behalf. However, he is in constant danger of being returned to this version of hell within a gulag.

Mr. Luis Ferrer García is not the only member of his family sentenced to the totalitarian gulag. His brother, José Daniel Ferrer García been sentenced to 25 years in the gulag for his belief in freedom, democracy and basic human rights. These two brothers are brilliant examples of the heroism of the Cuban people. No matter how intense the repression, no matter how horrifically brutal the consequences of a dignified struggle for liberty, the totalitarian gulags are full of men and women of all backgrounds and ages who represent the best of the Cuban nation.

Mr. Speaker, it is as inconceivable as it is unacceptable that, while the world stands by in silence and acquiescence, these two brothers are systematically tortured because of their belief in freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate and unconditional

release of Luis Enrique Ferrer García, Jose Daniel Ferrer García and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

**HONORING COACH TERI MARIANI  
OF THE PORTLAND STATE VIKINGS AS SHE COACHES HER  
FINAL GAME**

**HON. DARLENE HOOLEY**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. HOOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the long and successful career of Portland State University softball coach Teri Mariani, which will come to a close on Sunday, April 24, 2005, as she coaches her final games at PSU.

It's been a long time, but I remember Teri from her days as an outstanding student and a fine athlete when I had the privilege to coach her in high school at St. Mary's Academy in the late '60s and early '70s. Back then, without the opportunities afforded by Title IX that are available today, the chance for young women to compete at any level were limited.

Still, Teri managed to shine. I remember taking a team, including a then-sophomore Teri, to play basketball in the Portland Recreational League. Teri, always serious in the classroom, was just as driven to succeed on the court. But that's the sort of dedication to excellence that Teri maintained as during her years at Portland State.

Since the 1970s, Teri has been a fixture on the Portland State campus—first as a stellar three-sport student-athlete, then as an administrator and, since 1977, as coach of the softball team.

Teri will leave Portland State with the school record for the most victories in any sport, 631, and a winning record in 10 of her last 16 seasons. Ranked 15th overall among all Division II coaches with 646 wins, Coach Mariani also successfully led the Vikings during their transition to the Division I level in the 1998 season.

During her career, the Vikings went to the NCAA playoffs nine times, and placed nationally four times, with a best finish of third in the nation in 1991. For her accomplishments, Teri was inducted into the Portland Metropolitan Softball Association Hall of Fame in 1986 and the Oregon Sports Hall of Fame in 2003.

In addition to coaching softball, Teri has been Associate Athletic Director, Interim Athletic Director, and twice the department's Senior Woman Administrator. She has not only coached young women and helped them succeed on the field, but has been a mentor to them as they pursued their education. Hundreds of young women have had their lives impacted in a positive way by Teri Mariani, and while I am sad to see her long tenure as coach come to an end, her contributions to the sport and the university will be felt far into the future.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ERNEST R. MALER, SR.

**HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and congratulate my neighbor and constituent Mr. Ernest Maler, Sr. on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Mr. Maler was born on April 24, 1905 and raised in East Patchogue, New York. The upcoming century milestone is a time to celebrate the numerous achievements of a great American.

Mr. Maler earned his Juris Doctor at New York University School of Law and returned to Long Island so that he could provide exemplary legal service to the people of his hometown. His passion for law is matched only by a love for his family and an affinity for the game of golf.

The 100th birthday is slowly becoming an attainable goal by many Americans as medical science, better living conditions, and more knowledge about fitness and health increase our life expectancy. Today more than 70,000 Americans are 100 years old, and that number is expected to grow dramatically during the next century.

Mr. Maler lived through the great depression, two world wars, and 18 presidential administrations. His first hand experiences are invaluable sources of wisdom and his life accomplishments are inspirational to all Americans. Mr. Speaker I appreciate the opportunity to honor such a noteworthy individual.

**REGARDING WASHINGTON STATE  
TEACHER OF THE YEAR TAMARA  
STEEN**

**HON. DOC HASTINGS**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I wish to pay tribute to 2005 Washington State Teacher of the Year and one of four national finalists for 2005 Teacher of the Year—Ms. Tamara Steen.

Since 1963, Washington state has honored one outstanding classroom teacher each year who is then eligible for the national honor. I am extremely proud that out of over 2.8 million elementary and secondary teachers nationwide, Ms. Steen was recognized as one of four finalists for the national honor announced by President Bush.

Ms. Steen is an innovative and compassionate teacher who has taught in the small rural town of Mabton, Washington for over two decades. In her years of teaching she has motivated students to achieve a higher standard. Ms. Steen is a teacher who is willing to work hard for her students, and expects her students to work hard for her in return.

Ms. Steen currently teaches English at Mabton Junior/Senior High School where she uses innovative teaching strategies to actively engage her students in learning. Despite the many challenges she is faced with each day, Ms. Steen's enthusiasm for her profession and her devotion to her students continues to grow.

In a society where teachers do not always receive the appreciation they deserve, I am pleased to honor and commend Ms. Steen for her decades of dedication to students in Central Washington. Ms. Steen exemplifies the best of America.

To Ms. Steen and the teachers across America that are educating tomorrow's leaders, thank you.

IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. STEVEN R. ROTHMAN**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, April 24, 2005 is the 90th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the systematic and planned extermination of an entire ethnic group by the Ottoman Empire, and the first act of genocide in the 20th Century. I join my colleagues and the Armenian-American community in my district, the 9th Congressional District of New Jersey, and with people of goodwill throughout the world, in solemn observance and acknowledgement of the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians during the years 1915–1923.

Countless Armenian families were torn apart forever by these gruesome acts of violence—acts that have been seared into the memories of the courageous individuals who survived. Survivors have vowed to never let their children, grand-children, and great-grandchildren, or others in the world, forget this past. Unfortunately, there is still a denial on the part of many people around the world about the actual occurrence of a genocide in Armenia. I stand steadfast with my Armenian friends in support of an acknowledgement of the horrors that were inflicted upon their families, and I continue to urge the recognition of the Armenian Genocide.

This year, the number “ninety” serves as a reminder that too many years have passed without proper recognition, and it serves as a motivational tool to continue to educate the world about the Armenian Genocide. In past years on the day of the anniversary, my Armenian-American constituents from St. Leon Armenian Apostolic Church in Fair Lawn, St. Vartanantz Armenian Apostolic Church in Ridgefield, and St. Thomas Armenian Apostolic Church in Tenafly would participate in solemn services held in memory of the martyrs of the Armenian Genocide at their individual churches. This year, however, the number “ninety” will unify Armenian-Americans as all members of the Armenian Apostolic churches on the East Coast will convene in Times Square in New York City to stand together and have their voices heard.

This anniversary also provides us with an opportunity to pledge that such a slaughter should never take place again. I am sickened and dismayed by the atrocities that we continue to see today in the Sudan, as well as others that we have seen in the 20th century, such as the Holocaust and the ethnic cleansing campaigns in Cambodia, Kosovo and Rwanda. All of these events should be recognized for what they are: Genocide.

As a Jewish-American, I stand united with Armenians who continue to fight for recogni-

tion of the Armenian Genocide so the world will never forget the first crime against humanity in the 20th Century. I am hopeful that this 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide will bring with it the recognition that is deserved, and help us in our obligations as global citizens to protect the basic human rights of all people. We owe it to our ancestors, our families, and humanity to be committed to preventing genocide in the future, no matter when, where, or to whom it occurs.

BANKRUPTCY ABUSE PREVENTION AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

**HON. TODD TIAHRT**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 256, the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005. I believe passage of this important bill is long overdue, and I congratulate Chairman SENSENBRENNER and Chairman OXLEY for their leadership over the past several years in crafting meaningful bankruptcy reform.

The bill we are voting on today will help foster greater personal responsibility and make it more difficult for those who use bankruptcy as a tool for fraud to cheat their way out of debt.

Bankruptcy filings have escalated in recent years, which have had negative consequences on our economy. Yet, numerous studies have shown many bankruptcy debtors are able to repay a significant portion of their debts. If this alarming trend continues, all Americans will pay the price in the form of higher costs for goods, services and credit. These higher costs not only harm consumers, it also stymies growth for businesses.

By addressing bankruptcy abuses, S. 256 will play a role in creating a better environment to conduct business in America, which means more jobs for those who need them.

Some have expressed concerns S. 256 will limit people from filing under Chapter 7. However, estimates show only a small percent of Chapter 7 bankruptcy filers would have their petitions dismissed or forced into Chapter 13 or Chapter 11 bankruptcy. One study cited by the Committee on the Judiciary suggests as few as 3.6 percent of Chapter 7 filers would be moved into repayment plans under the new means test.

I recognize there are cases where families and individuals need to file for Chapter 7 bankruptcy for very legitimate reasons. Sometimes hardships and unforeseen circumstances happen in life, and bankruptcy is a needed last option to help families survive.

However, the United States cannot afford to continue down the path where high consumer debt is routinely directed toward bankruptcy as a first stop rather than a last resort. I am pleased S. 256 addresses common bankruptcy abuses while continuing to offer Americans who need to file for bankruptcy the means to do so.

The consumer bankruptcy provisions of S. 256 address the needs of both creditors and debtors. With respect to the interests of creditors, this legislation responds to many factors

that have contributed to the increase in consumer bankruptcy filings, such as lack of personal financial accountability.

The bill provides many debtor protections such as provisions allowing debtors to exempt certain education IRA plans, fortifying exemptions for certain retirement pension funds, and enhancing the professionalism standards for attorneys and others who assist consumer debtors with their bankruptcy cases.

S. 256 ensures debtors receive notice of alternatives to bankruptcy relief, requires debtors to participate in debt repayment programs, and institutes a pilot program to study the effectiveness of consumer financial management programs.

I am also pleased S. 256 contains several provisions that will help make American businesses more competitive. By cracking down on bankruptcy abuse, we eliminate another obstacle small businesses face as they compete in the global marketplace.

Currently, a business can be sued by a bankruptcy trustee and forced to pay back money previously paid to it by a firm that later filed for bankruptcy protection. Under the reforms of S. 256, small businesses will have an easier time successfully defending against these suits.

The reforms will promote greater certainty in the financial market place as well. S. 256 reduces systemic risk in the banking system and financial marketplace by minimizing the risk of disruption when parties to certain financial transactions become bankrupt or insolvent.

S. 256 addresses the special problems presented by small business debtors by instituting firm deadlines and enforcement mechanisms to weed out those debtors who are not likely to reorganize. It also requires the court and other designated entities to monitor these cases more actively.

Under the current law, nearly every item of information supplied by a debtor in connection with his or her bankruptcy case is made available to the public. S. 256 prohibits the disclosure of the names of the debtor's minor children and requires such information to be kept in a nonpublic record, which can be made available for inspection only by the court and certain other designated entities. In addition, if a business debtor had a policy prohibiting it from selling “personally identifiable information” about its customers and the policy was in effect at the time of the bankruptcy filing, then the sale of such information is prohibited unless certain conditions are satisfied.

These are just a few of the several provisions that make this bill good for American consumers and businesses. I urge my colleagues to join me today in voting for S. 256 so we can limit abuses within our bankruptcy system and promote a stronger America.

IN APPRECIATION OF OUR WORLD WAR II VETERANS

**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, as we approach the sixtieth anniversary of VE Day, we must remember and honor the men and women of America's armed forces who secured victory in World War II at a great cost.

They were regular citizens thrust into an extraordinary conflict at a pivotal point in world history, and freedom's future across the globe depended on their courage and character. They sacrificed and endured much in order to defeat tyranny and preserve liberty—overcoming formidable enemies, the elements, and undoubtedly their fears. The freedoms we enjoy today are their legacy, and we must cherish and defend this legacy as they did.

I have been very fortunate to meet quite a few of those in Southeastern Wisconsin who served during World War II, and every time I speak with them it is an inspiration. These heroes in our midst are a constant reminder of the tremendous difference that one person can make in this world. Because they confronted evil and risked their lives to liberate occupied lands, countless individuals around the world were able to grow up enjoying the blessings of freedom, and America's land and liberty were preserved.

Later this week, some of these veterans will be commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of victory in World War II at a special ceremony in Franklin, Wisconsin. They should know that America has not forgotten their bravery and how they and those fighting beside them saved the free world. We will forever be indebted to them for their service to our country in its hour of need, and we will continue to draw strength from this example as we fight terrorism and other threats today and in the future.

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RECOGNIZING THE CENTER FOR  
YOUTH CITIZENSHIP

**HON. DORIS O. MATSUI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to an organization with a great record of service to the young people of the Sacramento Region. Ever since its inception in the 1980s, the Center for Youth Citizenship has worked tirelessly and successfully to enhance the significance of citizenship and the importance of our laws and institutions to the young people of the local region. I ask all my colleagues to join me in saluting the Center for Youth Citizenship (CYC), one of Sacramento's most respected community organizations.

Founded in 1984, the Center for Youth Citizenship's mission is to have young people respect one another, our institutions, and laws; have a working understanding of citizenship, its requirements and responsibilities; appreciate the foundation and privileges of democracy; and have the skills and character to be engaged and informed participants in everyday community matters. To achieve these goals, CYC has reached out to a diverse group of school and community partners on award winning and recognized school and community programs such as the Gordon D. Schaber Mock trial & Moot Court Competition, Laws for Youth and Families, and California Conflict Resolution and Youth Meditation Project.

Through its partnerships with a broad-based group of government, business and education leaders, CYC initiated the program, With Liberty and Justice for All, in 2004. The program is designed to connect the generations and

groups in the local communities and recommit them to the collective pursuit of equity, justice, and character. In its inaugural year, CYC, along with a coalition of local businesses, community groups, and school districts, attracted a theater full of students to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the landmark Supreme Court decision of *Brown v. Board of Education*. As a result of the hard work of the CYC staff, hundreds of students were treated to a memorable and invaluable learning experience that will likely impact them for the rest of their lives.

This year, CYC has once again brought together an impressive list of community entities to celebrate the second year of the With Liberty and Justice for All community forum. The event theme for the 2005 program is "A Celebration of Citizenship, Education, and Service." Education legend Jaime Escalante, profiled in the Academy Award nominated film "Stand and Deliver," a group of Mr. Escalante's former students, and acclaimed actor Edward James Olmos, who portrayed Mr. Escalante in the movie, are all scheduled to participate in a special screening of "Stand and Deliver" and participate in an important dialogue about the importance of citizenship, education, and service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the Center for Youth Citizenship. I would like to especially thank CYC's Executive Director, Dr. Joe Maloney, and his great staff for their dedication and hard work. I am confident that the Center for Youth Citizenship will continue to yield tremendous benefits for the people of Sacramento. I ask all my colleagues to join with me in wishing the Center for Youth Citizenship a successful 2nd annual With Liberty and Justice for All community forum and continued success in all its future endeavors.

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THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, April 24th marks the 90th commemoration of the Armenian genocide. On that day, Ottoman Turkish leader Talaat Pasha uttered the frightening directive to "Kill every Armenian man, woman, and child without concern."

Between 1915 and 1921, more than 1.5 million Armenians were slaughtered, approximately 80 percent of the population. Men were tied together with ropes, taken to the outskirts of their town and shot or bayoneted by death squads. Women were brutally raped and hundreds of thousands were starved to death. 75 percent of those who were forced into death marches perished, especially children and the elderly. And those who survived the ordeal were herded into the desert without water, thrown off cliffs, burned alive, or drowned.

Ninety years after that first genocide of the 20th century, it is hard for many Americans to conceive of a tragedy on such a scale. An equivalent massacre on U.S. soil would claim the lives of 236 million Americans. That's every man, woman, and child in 48 of the 50 United States.

Some mistakenly believe that recent events make the Armenian tragedy seem long ago.

To the contrary, its relevance has a heightened importance today. One week before Hitler invaded Poland in the fall of 1939, he ordered his generals "to kill without pity or mercy all men, women, and children of Polish race or language. Only in such a way will we win the vital space that we need. Who still talks nowadays about the Armenians?"

That is precisely why we must still talk about the Armenians today. And we must still talk about the Jews, and the Poles, and the Russians, and the Catholics, and the Tutsis, and the moderate Hutus, and the Sudanese whose lives have been lost to genocide.

That is why this week's commemoration here in the United States Congress and those events going on this week are so crucial. If the world fails to remember the Armenian genocide of the early 20th century, we will have abandoned the collective commitment to fight the evils that communities have unleashed upon another.

In these early years of the 21st century, Armenians understand the War on Terror. It is a war they have now been fighting for ninety years. A war the world community still refuses to recognize. As we gather today to pay tribute, it is time for the U.S. Congress to finally designate what we all know to be a case of genocide. While tragically it may not be last, it is time to correct the history in the minds of many and finally declare the Armenian genocide the holocaust that it was.

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THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. MICHAEL R. McNULTY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I join today with many of my colleagues in remembering the victims of the Armenian Genocide. April 24th will be the 90th anniversary of this human tragedy.

From 1915 to 1923, the world witnessed the first genocide of the 20th Century. This was clearly one of the world's greatest tragedies—the deliberate and systematic Ottoman annihilation of 1.5 million Armenian men, women, and children.

Furthermore, another 500,000 refugees fled and escaped to various points around the world—effectively eliminating the Armenian population of the Ottoman Empire.

From these ashes arose hope and promise in 1991—and I was blessed to see it. I was one of the four international observers from the United States Congress to monitor Armenia's independence referendum. I went to the communities in the northern part of Armenia, and I watched in awe as 95 percent of the people over the age of 18 went out and voted.

The Armenian people had been denied freedom for so many years and, clearly, they were very excited about this new opportunity. Almost no one stayed home. They were all out in the streets going to the polling places. I watched in amazement as people stood in line for hours to get into these small polling places and vote.

Then, after they voted, the other interesting thing was that they did not go home. They had brought covered dishes with them, and all of these polling places had little banquets afterward to celebrate what had just happened.

What a great thrill it was to join them the next day in the streets of Yerevan when they were celebrating their great victory. Ninety-eight percent of the people who voted cast their ballots in favor of independence. It was a wonderful experience to be there with them when they danced and sang and shouted, "Ketse azat ankakh Hayastan"—long live free and independent Armenia! That should be the cry of freedom-loving people everywhere.

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this Sunday, April 24th, marks the 90th anniversary of the beginning the Armenian Genocide. I rise today to commemorate this terrible chapter in human history, and to help ensure that it will never be forgotten.

On April 24, 1915, the Turkish government began to arrest Armenian community and political leaders. Many were executed without ever being charged with crimes. Then the government deported most Armenians from Turkish Armenia, ordering that they resettle in what is now Syria. Many deportees never reached that destination.

From 1915 to 1918, more than a million Armenians died of starvation or disease on long marches, or were massacred outright by Turkish forces. From 1918 to 1923, Armenians continued to suffer at the hands of the Turkish military, which eventually removed all remaining Armenians from Turkey.

We mark this anniversary of the start of the Armenian Genocide because this tragedy for the Armenian people was a tragedy for all humanity. It is our duty to remember, to speak out and to teach future generations about the horrors of genocide and the oppression and terrible suffering endured by the Armenian people.

We hope the day will soon come when it is not just the survivors who honor the dead but also when those whose ancestors perpetrated the horrors acknowledge their terrible responsibility and commemorate as well the memory of genocide's victims.

Sadly, we cannot say humanity has progressed to the point where genocide has become unthinkable. We have only to recall the "killing fields" of Cambodia, mass killings in Rwanda, "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia and Kosovo, and most recently, the unspeakable horrors in Darfur, Sudan to see that the threat of genocide persists. We must renew our commitment never to remain indifferent in the face of such assaults on innocent human beings.

We also remember this day because it is a time for us to celebrate the contribution of the Armenian community in America—including hundreds of thousands in California—to the richness of our character and culture. The strength they have displayed in overcoming tragedy to flourish in this country is an example for all of us. Their success is moving testimony to the truth that tyranny and evil cannot extinguish the vitality of the human spirit.

The United States has an ongoing opportunity to contribute to a true memorial to the

past by strengthening Armenia's emerging democracy. We must do all we can through aid and trade to support Armenia's efforts to construct an open political and economic system.

Adolf Hitler, the architect of the Nazi Holocaust, once remarked "Who remembers the Armenians?" The answer is, we do. And we will continue to remember the victims of the 1915–23 genocide because, in the words of the philosopher George Santayana, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, as a proud member of the Congressional Caucus on Armenian Issues, and the representative of a large and vibrant community of Armenian Americans, I rise to join my colleagues in the sad commemoration of the Armenian Genocide.

Today we declare to people living in every corner of our globe that the Turkish and American governments must finally acknowledge what we have long understood: that the unimaginable horror committed on Turkish soil in the aftermath of World War I was, and is, an act of genocide.

I strongly believe that the tragic events that began on April 24, 1915, which are well known to all of us, should be part of the history curriculum in every Turkish and American school. On that dark April day, more than 200 of Armenia's religious, political and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople and killed. Ultimately, more than 1.5 million Armenians were systematically murdered at the hands of the Young Turks, and more than 500,000 more were exiled from their native land.

On this 90th anniversary of the beginning of the genocide, we lend our voices to a chorus that grows louder with each passing year. We simply will not allow the planned elimination of an entire people to remain in the shadows of history. The Armenian Genocide must be acknowledged, studied and never, ever allowed to happen again.

The parliaments of Canada, France and Switzerland have all passed resolutions affirming that the Armenian people were indeed subjected to genocide. The United States must do the same. I will not stop fighting until long overdue legislation acknowledging the Armenian Genocide finally passes.

Of course, an acknowledgment of the genocide is not our only objective. I remain committed to ensuring that the U.S. government continues to provide direct financial assistance to Armenia. Over the years, this aid has played a critical role in the economic and political advancement of the Armenian people.

Additionally, it is clearly in our national interest to foster peace and stability in the South Caucasus region. We in Congress need to renew our commitment to Section 907 of the Freedom Support Act, which denies assistance to Azerbaijan until it ends its stranglehold on the embattled region of Nagorno-Karabagh.

We will not stand by as the Armenian people are threatened yet again.

On this solemn day, our message is clear: the world remembers the Armenian genocide, and the governments of Turkey and the United States must declare—once and for all—that they do, too.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. JERRY F. COSTELLO**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the victims of one of history's most terrible tragedies, the Armenian Genocide.

April 24, 1915 is remembered and solemnly commemorated each year by the Armenian community and others throughout the world. On that day, Armenian religious, political, and intellectual leaders were arrested in Constantinople, taken to the interior of Turkey and murdered. From 1915 through 1923, Armenians that lived under Ottoman rule were systematically deprived of their property, freedom, and dignity. In addition, one and a half million Armenians were massacred, with 500,000 more deported.

Despite the efforts of some to minimize the scope and deny the occurrence, the Armenian Genocide is a historical fact. In my district, there is a significant population of Armenian survivors and their families that showed heroic courage and a will to survive. Many of the survivors of the genocide came to the United States, where they and their descendants have contributed to our society in countless ways. With faith and courage, generations of Armenians have overcome great suffering and proudly preserved their culture, traditions, and religion and have told the story of the genocide to an often indifferent world. It is through their unforgettable tragedy that we are able to share in their history and strong heritage. The history of the Armenian Genocide must never be forgotten. As Members of Congress and people of conscience, we must work to overcome the indifference and distortions of history, and ensure that future generations know what happened.

Mr. Speaker, it is impossible to imagine an evil more forceful than the efforts to systematically wipe out a people and a culture as well as individual lives. Denying that genocide took place when there are recorded accounts of barbarity and ethnic violence is an injustice. This was a tragic event in human history, but by paying tribute to the Armenian community we ensure the lessons of the Armenian genocide are properly understood and acknowledged. I am pleased my colleagues and I have this opportunity to ensure this tragedy is remembered.

COMMEMORATION OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

**HON. MARK E. SOUDER**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. SOUDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the 90th anniversary of the Armenian



Genocide of 1915–1923. We are familiar with these events. Hundreds of thousands of men, women, and children were driven from their homes, starved, beaten, and shot. Government-orchestrated intimidation, government-sponsored deportations, and government-perpetrated slaughter are the hallmarks of the Armenian Genocide. They are also the hallmarks of other genocides with which we are all too familiar.

The Armenian Genocide was the first genocide of its kind, but it was not the last. It has served as a model of the Holocaust in Europe, the Killing Fields of Cambodia, and religiously motivated atrocities in Sudan. We look regretfully and sorrowfully at the slaughter of so many in these cases, as well we should. These events demonstrate man's inherent sinfulness and the evil that comes so easily. No one denies the events in Europe, Asia, and Africa happened. Anyone rejecting these mass slaughters is themselves rejected. And yet, many suffer some kind of incredulity when it comes to the Armenian Genocide. We demand the perpetrators of these other genocides are made to account for their actions, but not the Armenian Genocide.

Photographs and eye witness accounts point overwhelmingly and undoubtedly to the massacre of over one million human beings, but no one has ever been held accountable. Ninety years after these events, the perpetrators are no longer living. In this world, they can no longer be held responsible for their actions. Their heirs, however, should be made to acknowledge the deeds of their fathers. But they are not.

Modern Turkey has made Armenian Genocide denial into an article of faith. Genocide denial is taught in schools, and is supported by the government. Anyone who deviates from the official line is considered a traitor. Indeed, the government of Turkey works feverishly to prevent any government from recognizing the Armenian Genocide. Recognition by the legislative bodies of France, Italy, Switzerland, and Russia has been met with harsh criticism from the Turkish government.

In 2000, only intense lobbying and ruthless pressure from Turkey prevented this House from recognizing the Armenian Genocide. It is shameful that the United States House of Representatives refuses to reaffirm the Armenian Genocide. Official American records on the Armenian Genocide are considered to be the most extensive in the world, and yet we refuse to reaffirm what already has been acknowledged to be the first genocide of the Twentieth Century. In past eras, American officials, including US Ambassador Henry Morgenthau and President Ronald Reagan, boldly declared the savage butchery in eastern Anatolia and the Caucasus to be genocide.

By allowing Turkey to deny its past actions, we take a step backwards. By not reaffirming the events of ninety years ago, we do not live up to the ideals of our country. I reaffirm the Armenian Genocide in the House of Representatives. I know that it happened. I remember.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF KIMBERLY BRANN, BARNES MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Kimberly Brann, Barnes Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Kimberly Brann graduated from Southwest Texas State University, receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting and Finance.

She has ten years of experience working in the business world. Ms. Brann worked in both commercial banking in San Antonio and investment banking in New York before becoming a teacher. Her unique and practical perspective helps to prepare our students for acquiring the skills they need for success.

Kimberly Brann has spent the last eight years teaching. She currently works at Seguin Independent School District, teaching math at Barnes Middle School. Having formerly taught fourth grade in the same district, she has watched some of her former students grow up through middle school.

It is an honor to recognize the accomplishments of Kimberly Brann. Her passion for education helps to insure that our students receive excellent and practical training that will help them succeed in the future.

### TRIBUTE TO JOHN CADDELL

### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of North Alabama's most influential leaders, Mr. John Caddell. Mr. Caddell, who will turn 95 on Saturday, is a popular lawyer in Decatur, Alabama who has done a great deal to help further the quality of life for all individuals in our community.

Still active in his law firm of Harris, Caddell, and Shanks, Mr. Caddell has always found time to share his thoughts on important community issues. He has been recognized for his leadership and commitment by the Kiwanis Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Alabama Academy of Honor, and the University of Alabama.

Mr. Caddell is a board member and volunteer for many community organizations. He has served as a trustee for the University of Alabama system, First National Bank of Decatur, the Alabama State Democratic Executive Committee, and the Decatur General Hospital Foundation amongst others. He is also an elder and a Deacon for the First Presbyterian Church of Decatur.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Caddell's family and friends in Decatur are gathering today to celebrate his 95th birthday with a surprise party. I rise, on behalf of everyone in North Alabama to thank him for everything he has done for the area and wish him a happy, healthy 95th year.

NATIONAL MINORITY CANCER AWARENESS WEEK

### HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, which is taking place this week, April 17 to 23, 2005.

Despite remarkable advances in cancer research, prevention, and treatment, minority groups disproportionately fall victim to cancer. In honor of this year's National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, we must make a strong commitment to support public health programs dedicated not only to improving awareness in communities of color but to finding a cure for cancer and guaranteeing access to quality health care.

Minority populations have higher chances of developing life-threatening diseases like cancer, and poorer chances of early diagnosis, optimal treatment, and survival. Minorities face significant barriers to accessing health care, including the lack of adequate health insurance; unequal access to research, clinical trials, and treatment; and cultural and linguistic barriers. This unequal treatment is an unacceptable form of discrimination. We must eliminate health disparities affecting minorities by breaking down the barriers to access to quality health care.

Minority health disparities affect all Americans. While minorities make up only about one-third of the U.S. population, they represent more than half of uninsured Americans. According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, by the year 2050 nearly 1 in 2 Americans will be a member of a racial or ethnic minority. It is critical that we act now to eliminate health disparities and to reduce the number of uninsured Americans. The cost of inaction will mean more preventable illnesses and deaths, higher health care costs, and lost productivity.

As we recognize National Minority Cancer Awareness Week, I hope that we will also work to expand public outreach and education efforts, accelerate medical research, and strengthen Medicaid and other public health programs.

Finally, we must also make a commitment to provide access to affordable, comprehensive and quality health care for all Americans, regardless of their race, gender, income or geographic location. As the only industrialized nation in the world that does not guarantee access to health care as a right, it is time for a change.

### STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of strengthening Social Security through ownership and saving.

Right now, we have an opportunity to let Americans own a piece of their retirement savings by strengthening Social Security through voluntary personal accounts.



Most Americans might be surprised to know that their Social Security isn't very secure at all. As the system stands today, your Social Security check is controlled by Congress. And when you die, your benefits are taken away, regardless of how long or how much you've paid into the system.

That's a bum deal for Americans.

If instead, we let younger workers create voluntary personal retirement accounts with a small portion of their Social Security money, more Americans could build a nest egg that the government could never ever take away. These savings could be passed on to future generations.

Mr. Speaker, voluntary personal accounts will help low- and middle-income Americans accumulate wealth and save for their future. I ask for your support.

#### HONORING THE DOWNINGTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

##### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Downingtown, Pennsylvania Area Chamber of Commerce on the occasion of its 60th anniversary.

The Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce was established in 1945 and then later incorporated in 1947. Throughout the past sixty years, the Chamber of Commerce has worked diligently to represent, assist, and grow the Downingtown business community and, in turn, has become one of the most respected business organizations in Chester County, Pennsylvania.

For the past 60 years, the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce has worked to unify and sustain the business community in the area. The Chamber has continually worked hard to maintain a strong economic base in Downingtown and continues to maintain and provide an environment that is appealing not only to businesses and merchants, but also to residents. Because of these strong initiatives demonstrated by the Downingtown Chamber of Commerce and its solid reputation for facilitating economic growth in the area, the Chamber has been instrumental in cultivating Downingtown as "The Good Neighbor Community."

Today, there are approximately 350 members of the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce. The members are comprised of small business owners, industrial companies, professionals, residents, and organizations interested in supporting the activities and principles of the Downingtown community. Moreover, the members are interested in economic prosperity for their community. The Chamber works conscientiously to make sure that Downingtown thrives and prospers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Downingtown Area Chamber of Commerce for its drive and dedication over the past 60 years to provide the citizens of Downingtown with a community that is economically prosperous and building on its past successes for a brighter future.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF LYTLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPER- INTENDENT MICHELLE C. SMITH

##### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Lytle Independent School District Superintendent Michelle Carroll Smith.

Ms. Smith is a product of her hometown school system. She was raised on a farm in Lytle, Texas and graduated from Lytle high school. She graduated from The University of Texas at San Antonio with a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. Then, after completing her Master's degree in Education Administration, she became Principal at the elementary school. She later became Assistant Superintendent, and in December 2002, she became the Superintendent of Lytle Independent School District.

Ms. Smith's family has been in the Lytle school district for many years: her father Alfred Carroll graduated in 1961, and her grandmother Theresa Carroll graduated in 1940 from Lytle High School. Her children Trenton and Macy also plan to carry on the family tradition and graduate from Lytle High School in 2013 and 2016.

Mr. Speaker, Lytle Independent School District Superintendent Michelle Carroll Smith is a model of community involvement, and I am pleased to have this opportunity to publicly thank her.

#### TRIBUTE TO CATHY ANDERSON

##### HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of North Alabama's most compassionate and dedicated leaders, Mrs. Cathy Anderson. Cathy is currently the CEO and President of Woody Anderson Ford in Huntsville, Alabama.

Mrs. Anderson was recently awarded the prestigious Ford "Salute to Dealers" Award. The Salute to Dealers Award was established to demonstrate Ford Motor Company's commitment to its dealers that improve the lives of those in need in their communities. I have known Cathy for many years and cannot think of anyone who deserves this award more than her.

Before she joined her late husband at his Ford dealership, Cathy was a state social worker who worked with abused children and their families. Her work has gone a long way in providing an effective system for intervention and treatment. She continues her work with children today as a strong supporter of the National Children's Advocacy Center in Huntsville.

Cathy is also on the forefront of methamphetamine prevention in North Alabama. In 2004, she hosted a methamphetamine educational forum for hospitality workers in Madison County. Cathy understood that a number of meth labs are found in hotel and motel

rooms and organized this forum to help point out the signs of meth abuse and teach others what they can do to help eradicate meth in the community.

Mr. Speaker, Cathy's work with children and methamphetamine abuse is quite remarkable and has helped raise the overall quality of life in North Alabama. I consider it a great privilege to have worked with Cathy on a wide variety of issues and to call her my friend.

On Friday, April 22, the North Alabama community will gather to honor and celebrate all of Cathy's achievements. I rise today, to join in their celebration and to congratulate her on behalf of everyone in North Alabama.

#### RECOGNIZING THE 9TH ANNUAL YOUTH PRIDE DAY

##### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, Saturday, April 23rd, marks the culmination of Youth Pride Month in Washington, DC with our Ninth Annual Youth Pride Day.

Youth Pride Day occurs every April in Washington, DC. It is the annual celebration for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) young people, which has brought over 15,000 youth together since its start in 1997. The celebration has grown from just 900 participants in 1997 to over 2,500 young people last year. Youth Pride Day has evolved from a single day into a series of events which now make April Youth Pride Month. These events include a prom, poetry readings, a film screening, an awards reception, and, on Saturday, the First Annual DC Youth Pride College Fair, the nation's largest LGBT college fair as well as Youth Pride Day itself.

The Youth Pride Alliance sponsors Youth Pride Day. The Alliance was founded in 1996, and its mission is to celebrate the dignity and courage of all young people as they discover their identities as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, or straight.

The Alliance challenges society to stop hate, violence, fear, isolation, and denial as it reminds us that LGBT youth in our nation's Armed Forces, do so under the policy of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." While they have sworn to defend the United States with their lives, they must suffer the hate, fear, isolation, and denial this demonstrably untenable policy engenders.

We, who live in our nation's capital, feel a special affinity to any group that has been denied the full rights and privileges of United States citizenship most Americans consider their birthrights. I remind the House that Washingtonians, who pay the second highest taxes in America, do so without full voting representation.

I ask this House to join with me in welcoming all those attending Youth Pride Day.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I was not present in the chamber last night to cast my

vote on rollcalls 115 through 123. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on all nine of those rollcalls.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS  
OF LAREDO INDEPENDENT  
SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF  
TRUSTEES MEMBER JOSE  
VALDEZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Laredo Independent School District Board of Trustees Member Jose Valdez.

Jose A. Valdez has a long and distinguished career in public service. He is a previous member of the City Council of Laredo, and is active in community governance in a variety of ways.

He promotes community involvement by seniors as the South Texas Coordinator of RSVP, the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. Through his work, seniors have been given a way to continue to contribute to the community in their retirement, improving their quality of life and the quality of life of all those around them.

Mr. Valdez has also been an advocate for a population that is too often forgotten by government: migrant workers. He has been Deputy Director of the Texas Migrant Council, and Executive Director of the Minnesota Migrant Council.

The Laredo Independent School District now benefits from Mr. Valdez' experience and energy, as he continues his work as a Board of Trustees Member. Mr. Valdez has had an exemplary career in public service and volunteer work. He is a credit to his community, and I am proud to have had the chance to recognize him here today.

TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN TOM  
BEVILL

**HON. ROBERT E. (BUD) CRAMER, JR.**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. Speaker, with profound sadness, I rise today to honor the life of my good friend and mentor, former U.S. Representative Tom Bevill. He passed away on March 30, 2005, one day after his 84th birthday.

Congressman Bevill served in this Chamber for the State of Alabama for 30 years. He was the Chairman of the House Energy and Water Appropriations Subcommittee. He was a powerful Congressman, who always remembered the people of Alabama who elected him. Under his chairmanship, he helped ensure that the State received funding for vital programs and projects and did a tremendous amount to improve the overall quality of life for his constituents.

Mr. Speaker, to honor the life and accomplishments of Tom Bevill, we must talk about the person he was. He was a devoted husband and father, a patriot and a statesman.

Mr. Bevill inherited me when I was elected to Congress in 1990. Actually, I had first met him in 1980 when he was getting off of Air Force One with President Carter in Huntsville. What a distinguished man he was coming down those steps, and I am talking about Tom Bevill. I had just been elected District Attorney of Madison County and I was meeting the man I had heard so much about, Tom Bevill. A powerful member of Congress and the Chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water.

In 1991, I was a dangerous creature, a freshman Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Mr. Bevill and his entire office became like family to me. He went out of his way to teach me everything he could and he let other members know that I was his partner, though I knew I was a very junior one.

One of the first legislative battles we fought together was over funding for NASA's Space Station. I had thousands of jobs at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville connected to the space station. A Michigan Member was offering an amendment to an appropriations bill to kill the whole program, ending my jobs. So a number of us, including Mr. Bevill, organized to defeat the amendment. Mr. Bevill, like a good teacher, sent me to talk to this Michigan Member.

Now Chairman Bevill didn't do all this work "for" me, he always did it "with" me. In this case, he sent me to talk to the man, alone. I did not know this man, but off I went, and I talked to him, or tried to, and it did not go well at all.

This man from Michigan put his hand on my shoulder, grinned and said, "You might as well kiss those jobs goodbye." He was crude and rude. So I reported this back to Chairman Bevill and he said, "You don't say? Well, truth be known the man is practically a communist. But, we'll beat him." And we did. Chairman Bevill was brilliant on the floor during the debate. We saved those jobs and probably mine too. And the Space Station is out there in Space. But, I sure learned a lot from Tom Bevill.

I can see him now. Always neatly dressed, hard at work for his Alabama and his Country. Chairman Bevill was from a different, and I have to say better era. A time in the U.S. House when members were civil and even courteous to one another. They might disagree and often did, but they walked away as friends. And they did it with dignity.

Tom Bevill was always at the Thursday morning prayer breakfast. He sat in the same place every week with his friends. He took me with him the first time I went and I was and am a better person for it. He showed me where members of Congress could eat lunch in the Capitol. As often as I could I would eat there, watching and listening to Tom Bevill and his friends. Members were always trying to talk to Tom Bevill, to ask him for something, and he was always kind and courteous.

The Alabama delegation, seven of us, would tend to gather at every vote in the same area of the House Floor. Mr. Bevill would watch our votes and every now and then he would make a comment. A careful comment—"Bud, are 'we' being a politician today or a statesmen?" or "I find that 'our' people in Alabama don't see this issue the way some do . . ." Offering wonderful, helpful, wise advice, that was the kind of man he was.

And so, every now and then some, not many, will say to me in my district in North

Alabama, "You are going to be another Tom Bevill," or at least that's the way I hear it in my mind. They probably actually say, "You keep this up and you 'might' be another Tom Bevill." Then I know, that after 15 years, I have heard the best compliment one could pay . . . To be compared to Tom Bevill.

He gave us so much and I will miss him dearly.

To his children, Susan, Don, and Patty, thank you for letting us share him with you and your families.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of everyone in North Alabama, to show my thanks to Congressman Bevill and honor him as a true American leader. There won't be another one like Tom Bevill.

PEST MANAGEMENT AND FIRE  
SUPPRESSION FLEXIBILITY ACT

**HON. C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. OTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Pest Management and Fire Suppression Flexibility Act. This bill codifies the Environmental Protection Agency's rule-making, while affirming Congressional intent and the long-held positions of Republican and Democrat administrations with regard to the Clean Water Act and pesticide applications, fire suppression and other pest management activities. I am pleased to be joined by 28 members in introducing this legislation.

Congress passed the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) in the early 1970s in an attempt to better account for and more closely regulate discharges of municipal wastes and pollutants into our nation's waterways from large industrial facilities.

More than 30 years later, however, federal courts have expanded the scope of the CWA far beyond the original intent of Congress. Today, family farmers, mosquito-abatement and pest-control districts, irrigators, rural water districts, federal and state agencies, foresters, pest and lawn-care control operators and many others are subject to unnecessary, bureaucratic permitting requirements and nuisance lawsuits based on misguided interpretation of the CWA by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Known as the Talent and Forsgren decisions, the court ruled that persons applying a pesticide according to the federally approved label directly to or above a body of water must obtain a CWA permit prior to the application. The Forsgren decision also significantly narrowed a longstanding Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rule exempting forestry activities such as pest and fire control from CWA permitting requirements. Similar cases are pending in other parts of the country.

The court's viewpoint in Talent blatantly disregards the comprehensive pesticide registration process required by the primary federal pesticide statute, the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA). Under FIFRA, the EPA reviews environmental effects and water quality data, and approves specific use directions for pesticides based on the information it has evaluated—a factor the district court in Talent relied heavily on in rejecting the suit. Failing to use a pesticide in accordance with its EPA-approved labeling is a violation of federal and state laws.

EPA does not issue CWA permits solely for the direct application of a pesticide to target a pest that is present in or over water, nor has it ever stated in any general policy or guidance that a permit is required for such applications. EPA recently issued rulemaking specifically exempting pesticide applications performed according to label instructions from CWA permitting requirements. The action would codify a 30-year-old policy.

By transferring the primacy of pesticide use from FIFRA to CWA, the 9th Circuit has authorized attorneys representing activist groups to file lawsuits to bully and intimidate farmers, mosquito abatement districts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture and others into ceasing long and widely practiced activities that have been authorized by—and already are closely overseen by—Federal and state governments.

While the EPA's rulemaking is a step in the right direction, many groups are concerned that it will not provide the necessary protection from activist lawsuits. The legislation I am introducing today would make permanent the EPA's current rulemaking related to pesticide applications and CWA permits as well as its 30-year-old rule exempting certain forestry activities. Moreover, it would provide much-needed protection from nuisance suits for groups that already are too heavily regulated.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE STOP SENIOR HUNGER ACT OF 2005

**HON. FRANK. A. LOBIONDO**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise here today in support of the "Stop Senior Hunger Act of 2005." This important piece of legislation reauthorizes vital senior nutrition programs. These programs help these men and women in cities, suburbs and rural communities across America who are elderly, homebound, disabled, frail or at risk. They help those with long-term illnesses and those who may just need a little short-term assistance after a hospital stay or during a time of need. In the words of the Meals-on-Wheels Association of America, the oldest and largest national organization representing senior meal programs in the United States, these programs are needed "so no senior goes hungry."

The "Stop Senior Hunger Act of 2005" reauthorizes through 2010 both congregate and home delivered nutrition services—those meals provided at local senior centers and those meals delivered to homebound seniors. It also reauthorizes the Nutrition Services Incentive program which provides additional funds to states based on each state's share of the total meals served by Meals on Wheels and other senior nutrition programs in all states the prior year.

The average beneficiary may be very familiar to you—she may be your mother, your grandmother or your next door neighbor. She is an elderly woman in her very late seventies or early eighties and is more than twice as likely as her contemporaries to live alone, apart from family and friends. She is likely to have trouble with walking or climbing stairs and have a number of diagnosed chronic health conditions. In addition, she probably

has an income below \$18,000. Whatever the reason, she cannot shop, cook, or prepare meals for herself. She relies on Meals on Wheels and other senior nutrition programs to ensure she gets proper nutrition.

The demand for the services Meals on Wheels and other senior nutrition programs provide will continue to increase at an astounding pace. As many of you know, the over 65 population in the United States is growing and is projected to increase dramatically. In fact, those individuals age 85 or older, is the fastest growing segment of the entire United States population.

Meals on Wheels and other senior nutrition programs are also an excellent use of our increasingly scarce federal dollars. They save federal Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans' health care costs since malnourished patients stay in a hospital nearly twice as long as well nourished seniors. In addition, for every federal dollar spent as part of these programs as much as three dollars are leveraged from other funding sources, including state, local and private funds and participant contributions toward the cost of meals.

I was proud to participate in the Meals on Wheels Association of America's "March for Meals" last month. I joined volunteers from Meals on Wheels of Salem County, New Jersey in delivering meals and witnessed first hand both the need for these important programs and the incredible dedication of their staff and volunteers. I encourage each of you to get involved with your local programs—whether you help prepare meals, deliver meals, or just join local seniors in enjoying their meals—your support can make a difference.

For all of these reasons, I urge my colleagues in the House to support the "Stop Senior Hunger Act of 2005."

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRIO COUNTY COMMISSIONER JOSE "PEPE" FLORES

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Frio Precinct Four County Commissioner Jose "Pepe" Flores.

Mr. Flores has a strong and varied background in public service. He graduated from Dilley High School, and from Sul Ross University in 1970 with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry. He subsequently received his certification as a Medical Technician.

He has worked as a drug abuse counselor, a college teacher at the University of Texas, and a Halliburton Oilfield Engineer, among other professions. He has also been part of several important community organizations, including the Tax Appraisal District, the Rio Grande Water District, and the Dilley Independent School District School Board.

Mr. Flores now serves the public as County Commissioner for Frio County. He owns and operates a ranch in South Texas, and is married to Jennifer Flores, with whom he has two children.

Mr. Flores has distinguished himself as an energetic, hardworking, and versatile businessman and public servant.

The city of Dilley and the people of Frio County have benefited greatly from the work he has done, and I am proud to have the chance to thank him here today.

#### HONORING LAIRD & COMPANY

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Laird & Company on its 225th Anniversary as a family, owned and operated New Jersey business located in Scobeyville, New Jersey. Laird & Company is the oldest licensed distiller in the United States and is most well known for its famous Applejack.

The history of Laird & Company is very rich. The company can trace its origin back to 1698 when William Laird moved to Monmouth County, New Jersey from Scotland and began making Scotch by using one of the most abundant resources in the area, apples. He made this brandy for his own family, friends and neighbors.

During the Revolutionary War, Robert Laird served under George Washington and during the Battle of Monmouth, the Laird family would supply the troops with Applejack. Washington enjoyed Applejack and personally requested the recipe to produce his own. To this day, Washington is the only non-Laird family member to know the secret Laird's Applejack recipe.

During Prohibition, the company was able to survive by selling sweet cider and applesauce. Since the Prohibition, Laird & Company has produced roughly 95 percent of all Applejack apple brandy sold in the United States. Laird & Company halted their production of Applejack during World War II to aid in the war effort by converting their plant to dry and dehydrate apple pomace for pectin and other products.

Laird & Company was recognized by the New Jersey State Senate in 1964 as the "oldest native distilled spirit beverage in the United States." The plant in Scobeyville, New Jersey is the oldest operating distillery in the country and it produces close to 1.5 million cases of distilled spirits annually.

I rise today to commend Laird & Company in its 225th year as a family owned and operated business with a deep history. I applaud the service that Laird & Company has made to the individuals and communities of Central New Jersey and the country.

#### TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE DUNHAM

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an outstanding State Department professional, Lawrence Dunham, as he retires after three decades of dedicated government service.

Mr. Dunham served as Assistant Chief of Protocol for Diplomatic Affairs at the State Department and also assumed the position of Acting Chief of Protocol when he was designated to manage the transition from the Clinton to the Bush administration. He is well-respected by Members of Congress from both

sides of the aisle for his expertise, organizational ability, and exceptional diplomatic skills.

During his distinguished career, Larry—as he is known by his friends—managed relations with foreign embassies in Washington and consulates throughout the United States, handling issues of accreditation, privileges and immunities under international law. As a senior career officer in the bureau, he resolved sensitive cases involving diplomatic immunity, recognition of foreign officials, and establishing and breaking relations. He also organized participation of foreign government representatives in major national events, leading a team which arranged for more than 80 delegations from abroad and 180 ambassadors representing foreign governments to attend the State Funeral of former President Reagan. Mr. Dunham represented the State Department on television and radio broadcasts, in meetings with Congressional staff, journalists, and as an expert witness. He served as a speaker to groups including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, National Association of Secretaries of State, Smithsonian Associates, spouses of new foreign ambassadors, and consular corps throughout the United States. Among the awards he received were the Superior Honor Award for outstanding service in upholding international legal principles; Meritorious Honor Awards for initiative and leadership in monetary conservation and improvement in efficiency, and for outstanding managerial skills in restructuring work and improving service; the Secretary's Certificate of Recognition; the Commanders' Cross, Austria; and the Order of Queen Isabella, Spain.

A graduate of George Mason University School of Law, Mr. Dunham and his lovely wife Deborah reside in Annandale, Virginia. He is being honored on Friday, April 22, 2005 at an event at the DACOR-Bacon House in Washington, D.C. which will be attended by a number of ambassadors representing nations which he has assisted during his career.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives join me in congratulating Larry Dunham on his retirement and in expressing our appreciation for his many years of exemplary service to our Nation.

#### HONORING THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE OF BILLY PAUL CARNEAL

#### HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Billy Paul Carneal, a Springfield, Tennessee, native who has dedicated his life to public service and the past 11½ years as the executive director of the Springfield-Robertson County Chamber of Commerce. Billy Paul has decided to retire from the chamber, and I want to thank him for all he has done for his community, which I have the honor of representing in this esteemed body.

Billy Paul has served as a teacher in Robertson County, a school principal and administrator in nearby Cheatham County, the mayor of Springfield and a volunteer firefighter. In addition, he currently serves as a Robertson County commissioner. Billy Paul's contribu-

tions to his community can be traced to his grandfather, R.W. Darke, who was a member of both houses of the Tennessee General Assembly and the city clerk for Springfield.

Billy Paul's service as a public school teacher and administrator is especially admirable. He says he became an educator because his teachers in high school and college served as excellent role models for him. He then passed his own passion for case history and government to a new generation. Today, his former students are doctors, lawyers, public officials and teachers.

As mayor of Springfield, Billy Paul was instrumental in changing the city's form of government from three at-large commissioners to a board of mayor and aldermen, with a city manager to oversee operations. He says the decision to seed the change in government was one of the toughest he made as mayor.

Billy Paul's latest contribution to his community involved a very successful tenure as the executive director of the chamber. In this capacity, he improved immensely the quality of life for Robertson County residents. But Billy Paul did not do all this alone. He had help from many in the community, and he had the love and support of an understanding wife and family. He attributes the support of his wife, Pat, and their three children for his accomplishments. Billy Paul, I wish you well in your future endeavors and thank you for your service to a community you obviously cherish.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMANDA JENNER, BRIESE- MEISTER MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER OF THE YEAR

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Amanda Jenner, Briesemeister Middle School Teacher of the Year.

Amanda Jenner received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with a specialization in math from Southwest State University.

Ms. Jenner, who is also a former graduate of Seguin High School, understands the unique needs of her students. She prefers to look at every new day as an opportunity to learn from new experiences. As a teacher, she encourages her students to look at life's challenges in new and creative ways.

Math is important for success in later life, and Ms. Jenner believes that it is important to make the subject practical and even fun. She believes in the importance of having a good sense of humor and reaching students on a personal level.

I am proud to have had the chance to recognize Briesemeister Middle School's Teacher of the Year, Amanda Jenner. Her unique teaching style and personal approach help to create a healthy learning atmosphere for our children.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, during the day of April 20, I traveled to Rhode Island to attend the Funeral Wake of Providence Police Officer Allen. During this time I missed several rollcall votes.

I respectfully request the opportunity to record my position on rollcall votes.

It was my intention to vote: "no" on rollcall No. 112, H. Res. 219. I would have voted "no" because this rule and this bill represent an unfunded mandate that shifts \$30 billion in clean-up costs of MTBE pollution in the drinking water supply to State and local governments. "Yes" on rollcall No. 113, H. Con. Res. 126: expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Congress in the aftermath of the recent school shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota. "Yes" on rollcall No. 114, H. Res. 208: recognizing the University of Pittsburgh and Dr. Jonas Salk on the fiftieth anniversary of the milestone discovery of the Salk polio vaccine, which has virtually eliminated the disease and its harmful effects.

At this time I would ask for unanimous consent that my positions be entered into the RECORD following those votes or in the appropriate portion of the RECORD.

#### HONORING NICHOLAS P. GODICI

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nicholas P. Godici, a distinguished public servant who is retiring after more than 32 years of exemplary service with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). In 2000, Commissioner Godici was appointed by the Secretary of Commerce as the first Commissioner for Patents under the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. That Act rechartered the USPTO and made the most significant changes to the U.S. patent system since the Patent Act of 1952.

As Commissioner for Patents, Commissioner Godici effectively oversaw an organization that employs more than 3,700 patent examiners who review and process over 350,000, patent applications each year. He was instrumental in the drafting and implementation of the USPTO's 21st Century Strategic Plan which is a comprehensive, ongoing effort to increase productivity in patent processing time, enhance patent quality, and promote electronic filing and processing.

Commissioner Godici began his career on June 25, 1972, as a patent examiner and his steady leadership and commitment to the patent system have earned him international recognition and the respect of his colleagues and the entire intellectual property rights community.

He was appointed to the Senior Executive Service in 1990 as Group Director of a patent examination organization. In 1997, Nick was selected to serve as the Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Patents responsible for all

aspects of the patent granting process. Since his appointment to Commissioner, he has represented the United States in a number of international negotiations involving intellectual property rights, and testified before Congress on a variety of patent issues and USPTO operations. He was also the Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Acting Director of the USPTO from January to December 2001.

I am honored to have this opportunity to publicly commend a dedicated public servant on the occasion of his retirement. Nicholas Godici embodies the excellence of our public servants, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

#### CELEBRATING EARTH DAY—SENATOR GAYLORD NELSON'S LEGACY

#### HON. DAVID R. OBEY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, Earth Day is a great day to call attention to the many environmental public health challenges that face everyone on the planet. Established by Wisconsin's own Senator Gaylord Nelson on April 22, 1970, it stands as an annual reminder that as human beings we should recommit ourselves to his vision of a world where we demonstrate a mutual respect for one another by not "fouling the nest" and preserving the fragile planet we share. I submit for inclusion in the RECORD this statement from Senator Nelson on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of Earth Day:

#### EARTH DAY 2005—A WAKE UP CALL

(By Former Senator Gaylord Nelson—  
Founder of Earth Day)

The 35th anniversary of Earth Day is a sobering occasion. On previous anniversaries we have hailed this "new awakening" as millions around the world suddenly rose up and pledged their support for a new campaign to save the natural environment.

In 1993 American Heritage magazine called Earth Day "one of the most remarkable happenings in the history of democracy." There has been progress, of course, particularly in public awareness of the critical role environment plays in our lives and in the education and training of new environmental leaders. Environment has become a major political issue. The public is prepared to support those measures necessary to forge a sustainable society, if the President and the Congress have the vision to lead us to that goal.

Unfortunately, the President and the Congress have not stepped up to the challenge of providing national and world leadership on the environmental crisis.

In fact, on some key issues, they are actually resisting or reversing progress made in the past 30 to 40 years. And without strong, sustained leadership from the President and Congress the urgent challenge to protect the environment and create a sustainable society cannot succeed. Theodore Roosevelt made conservation a top priority for the Republican party, and many members of his party carried that torch over the years. Recently, however, the GOP leadership has abandoned this cause. There are many serious environmental problems confronting us. But two current environmental issues dramatize this failure of leadership—energy conservation, and population control. Both are critical to the sustainability of our society.

In each case, there is not only a lack of wise national leadership but an apparent determination to turn back the clock. The surrender to special interests on these two issues makes a mockery of any claim to environmental awareness.

Egged on by the President, the Senate on March 16 sneaked into the annual budget resolution a scheme to allow drilling for oil in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, protected in 1960 at the urging of great environmentalists such as Sigurd Olson, Justice William O. Douglas, and Wilderness Act author Howard Zahniser. The bill was signed by President Eisenhower.

This is not just a sabotage of environmental policy. It also undermines any hope for a wise energy policy. When all the evidence calls for bold steps to conserve energy and develop alternative sources, this cynical action implies that we can burn all the oil we want and just move on to the next untapped source, no matter where it might be.

We are told it may be 10 years before a very modest amount of oil could be produced from this pristine refuge. And what would it cost in real terms?

For the President to call for oil drilling in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge is like burning the furniture in the White House to keep the First Family comfortable.

Equally critical is the failure of the President and Congress to confront the issue of population control, in our own rapidly growing country and the rest of the world.

A "Rockefeller Report" in 1972, issued by the President's commission on population growth, urged the U.S. to move vigorously to stabilize our population at about 200 million as rapidly as possible. Since then our population has ballooned to 282 million, and is expected to reach 500 million between 2060 and 2070. We are heading into a century in which we will double and triple our population in a short time.

World-wide population projections are equally chilling. A series of international conferences have called for bold action to control population growth.

Yet the United States in recent years has become an aggressive opponent of family planning programs in other countries, and we are now facing efforts by some "new conservatives" to impose similar restrictions at home.

On previous Earth Days we have offered a solution: The President should set the standard by delivering a message to the Congress on the state of the environment, citing priorities that need to be addressed. Congress then should hold hearings on these issues. This would produce a "national dialogue" on the sustainability of our environment, and provide a roadmap to the future.

Without Presidential leadership and Congressional hearings, we cannot claim to be taking seriously the most compelling threats facing our society.

On environmental issues, our intelligence is reliable. Our scientists have the facts, if we will only listen. It is a "slam dunk" that we cannot continue on our present course. But without Presidential and Congressional leadership, even an enlightened public cannot cope with the greatest challenge of our time.—Gaylord Nelson, Washington, DC April, 2005.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF BARBARA HANSON NELLERMÖE

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Forty-fifth District Court Judge Barbara

Hanson Nellermoe for her commitment to the Bexar County Community.

For ten years, Judge Nellermoe has been representing clients in environmental, banking, securities, medical malpractice, and other types of commercial litigation. Helping others in times of need is Judge Hanson's top priority and she has done a great job of it for the people in her community. Rated A-V by the Martindale-Hubbell national legal directory, she has received such awards as the President's Award for Outstanding Service to the San Antonio Bar Association and the Belva Lockwood Outstanding Lawyer Award from the Bexar County Women's Bar Association.

In addition to her total commitment to her current position as Forty-fifth District Court Judge, Barbara also serves on the board of directors for the College of the State Bar of Texas and is the Editor in Chief of San Antonio Lawyer magazine.

Judge Nellermoe is an irreplaceable citizen of Bexar County. I am pleased to have the chance to honor her here today.

#### ARMENIAN GENOCIDE 90TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, April 24th marks the anniversary of one of the most horrible tragedies of the 20th century, the genocide that was committed against the Armenian people by the Ottoman Empire. Over one million people were forced into exile and lost their lives during this horrible tragedy that befell the Armenian people in 1915.

The United States is proud of the strong ties we share with Armenia. Over the years many Armenian-Americans have helped to enrich and enhance our Nation's character; we have remained committed to peace in the region and will continue to help Armenia with its economic prosperity and strengthening of its democracy.

On this day of remembrance I send my solemn wishes to Armenians everywhere. I look forward to our nations working toward a future of peace, prosperity, and continued freedom.

#### CONGRATULATING THE ONCOLOGY NURSING SOCIETY ON THEIR 30TH ANNIVERSARY

#### HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to oncology nurses. Oncology nurses play an important and essential role in providing quality cancer care. These nurses are principally involved in the administration and monitoring of chemotherapy and the associated side-effects patients experience. As anyone ever treated for cancer will tell you, oncology nurses are intelligent, well-trained, highly skilled, kind-hearted angels who provide quality clinical, psychosocial and supportive care to patients and their families. In short, they are integral to our nation's cancer care delivery system.

I congratulate the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) on its 30th Anniversary. ONS is the largest organization of oncology health professionals in the world, with more than 31,000 registered nurses and other health care professionals. Since 1975, ONS has been dedicated to excellence in patient care, teaching, research, administration and education in the field of oncology. The Society's mission is to promote excellence in oncology nursing and quality cancer care. To that end, ONS honors and maintains nursing's historical and essential commitment to advocate for the public good by providing nurses and healthcare professionals with access to the highest quality educational programs, cancer-care resources, research opportunities and networks for peer support. ONS has two chapters in my home state of Connecticut, which help oncology nurses provide high quality cancer care to patients and their families in our state.

Cancer is a complex, multifaceted and chronic disease, and people with cancer are best served by a multidisciplinary health care team specialized in oncology care, including nurses who are certified in that specialty. Each year in the United States, approximately 1.37 million people are diagnosed with cancer, another 570,000 lose their battles with this terrible disease, and more than 8 million Americans count themselves among a growing community known as cancer survivors. Every day, oncology nurses see the pain and suffering caused by cancer and understand the physical, emotional, and financial challenges that people with cancer face throughout their diagnosis and treatment.

Over the last ten years, the setting where treatment for cancer is provided has changed dramatically. An estimated 80 percent of all cancer patients receive care in community settings, including cancer centers, physicians' offices, and hospital outpatient departments. Treatment regimens are as complex, if not more so, than regimens given in the inpatient setting a few short years ago. Oncology nurses are involved in the care of a cancer patient from the beginning through the end of treatment, and they are the front-line providers of care by administering chemotherapy, managing patient therapies and side-effects, working with insurance companies to ensure that patients receive the appropriate treatment, provide counseling to patients and family members, in addition to many other daily acts on behalf of cancer patients.

I appreciate oncology nurses' dedication to our nation's cancer patients, and commend the Oncology Nursing Society for all of its efforts and leadership over the last 30 years. They have contributed immensely to the quality and accessibility of care for all cancer patients and their families, and I urge my colleagues to support them in their important endeavors.

**DR. PATRICIA SENN BREIVIK HONORED FOR HER ESTEEMED SERVICE AS DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY AT SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **HON. ZOE LOFGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements

of Dr. Patricia Senn Breivik as she retires from her position as Dean of the University Library at San Jose State University. Dr. Breivik's was a leader of the collaboration between the San Jose Public Library and the San Jose State University—a merged library that opened in August 2003. As a result, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library encompasses the spirit of Silicon Valley as an innovative model serving as the area's 21st century information hub.

It took 6 years to propose, plan, and execute an idea that evolved during a breakfast meeting between former San Jose Mayor Susan Hammer and former San Jose State University president Robert Caret. After Dr. Breivik inherited the idea, she went to work with the director of the San Jose Public Library to establish a center of exploration and learning that would serve the University's 27,000 students, 1,153 faculty and a busy city of 924,950 people.

During the time of the planning of this jewel, both libraries faced a steady erosion of support as a result of the passage of Proposition 13. In addition to shrinking coffers, the libraries also faced the challenge of having to remain open substantially more hours than either libraries had previously offered because of its increased patronage. Now, not only is the King Library co-owned and co-managed, it has one online system and one website. Library materials are accessible to all users and the staffs work together in technical services, reference, circulation and Information Technology support.

Within a year of its opening, the King Library garnered a number of prestigious awards. Among them is the 2004 Gale/Library Journal "Library of the Year" Award that was presented for innovative collaboration and acknowledged the cooperative planning between university and city officials in risk-taking and vision.

The King Library is one of the precious jewels of San Jose's cultural "necklace" of treasured museums, theaters, and historical landmarks. It serves as a place for friends to meet for a cup of coffee and discuss the latest news; a study hall for nerve-wracked students; and a place of learning, sharing and, of course, collaboration between people of differing education and income levels, ethnicity, language, culture and beliefs. Special thanks go to Dr. Breivik for her outstanding work.

**HONORING THE CONTRIBUTION OF WEBB COUNTY DISTRICT CLERK MANUEL GUTIERREZ**

### **HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the contributions and achievements of District Clerk Manuel Gutierrez, who has served the citizens of Webb County for 24 years.

Manuel Gutierrez is not only a model of professional success, but a model citizen. He has been reelected by the voters since he began his service; in fact, he has the distinction of currently being the longest-serving elected official in Webb County.

He brings to his work the passion and experience he has gained over the years. He

strives to improve himself through continuing education and professional enrichment. These efforts are evident through his superlative work and the trust the citizens put in him.

During his tenure, he has overseen improvements to the operations of his office that resulted in increased efficiency in a number of areas, most notably the local judicial process. The community is truly appreciative of innovators who streamline functions that save the taxpayers money, and he proves this time and again.

Manuel's wife, Esther, is employed with the Laredo Independent School District, and they form a couple who are dedicated to the betterment of their community. He has three children, Monica, Manuel Jr., and Miguel who doubtlessly are very proud of their parents.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak in honor of Manuel Gutierrez, a true citizen who deserves the praise and gratitude of his community.

### **KENSINGTON COMMUNITY STORE SUCCESS STORY**

### **HON. JERRY MORAN**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the selfless efforts of the citizens of Kensington, Kansas in their work to re-open their community's grocery store.

A little more than 19 months ago, this community's only grocery store closed. This town of 511 people immediately felt the loss of the store. Residents no longer had local access to basic necessities such as dry goods and fresh cuts of meat. The closest grocery store was in the county seat of Smith Center—nearly 15 miles away. I know that most Members of Congress do not have to concern themselves with whether their communities have a grocery store. However, for many of the communities in my district, keeping the local grocery store open is a constant struggle.

The citizens of Kensington decided to take action. Following a community meeting, board members were elected to form the Kensington Community Store, Incorporated. This organization was created to oversee the construction and development of a non-profit community grocery store with noon deli.

Since that time, support for the project has been impressive and inspiring: the Kensington city council committed to construct a 60' x 75' steel building; several lots of ground were donated for building construction; community "work nights" were held to ready the store for opening; Vo-tech classes at the local high school constructed metal and wood shelves; the local Lions Club assisted with interior construction of the store.

All totaled, more than \$130,000 has been raised to support the project. Donations of all sizes have come from more than 250 individuals, businesses, clubs and foundations. The final piece of the puzzle fell into place when an agreement was reached to share wholesale supply delivery dates with a grocery store in a community 27 miles down the road. The arrangement allows the store in Kensington to sell merchandise at competitive prices.

Thanks to a team effort, the Kensington Community Store is now a reality. According



to John Struckhoff, chairman of the committee that organized the project, having a grocery store back in town provides an anchor business that can be used to attract other businesses to Kensington. It also helps stabilize property values and provides citizens of all ages a place to purchase groceries without having to leave town.

Mr. Struckhoff also noted that the whole experience has resulted in other benefits. "It is amazing how many individuals and groups donated money and time to this project," Struckhoff said. "This shows how a small town in Kansas can come together to support a project that provides a common good to all citizens. It really makes you proud to live in Kensington."

All across the State of Kansas are stories just like this one. Of neighbors helping neighbors, not because they have to, but because they want to. Because it is the right thing to do. Their efforts deserve our support and recognition.

Citizens throughout the First Congressional District of Kansas are working together to enhance the quality of life in their communities. The Kensington Community Store is a success story that demonstrates how teamwork and creative thinking can make a positive difference in rural America.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF 'HERO OF THE STORM' NOMINEES

#### HON. JOHN T. SALAZAR

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the crew of the St. Mary's Hospital Careflight Unit in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Pilot Richard Fowler, Nurse Mary Bagshaw and Bradley Brown have been nominated for the Hero of the Storm award, in recognition of their courageous actions when their medical airlift plane was downed in the Rocky Mountains during a winter storm. The crew defied the odds, survived in the freezing weather and saved the life of a 2-year-old patient already in poor condition.

I am humbled by their strength and perseverance in the face of such hardship. We all salute the bravery of these three extraordinary people, who risked their lives to save others. These everyday citizens embody the values of courage and duty and we should all live by their example.

#### HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FRIO COUNTY CONSTABLE TED NIETO

#### HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Frio County Constable Ted Nieto for his exceptional career in law enforcement.

Ted Nieto was elected as the Constable for Precinct Four in January 2004, but has been actively serving his community for the last ten years. He received his law enforcement certification at Southwest College and is currently

working to obtain his police license from San Antonio College.

He believes in establishing a solid law enforcement agency that is committed to the needs of the community, and has devoted his department to serve the public with honesty and integrity.

Constable Nieto is an excellent example of an elected official who understands the needs of his community. The mission for his department is to promote safety in the community by enforcing court orders, supporting early intervention activities, and to work together with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Constable Nieto is a man who believes in the value of community involvement and intervention. Currently he is the District 19 region coordinator for the Special Olympics of Texas. As well as the present coordinator for the annual law enforcement torch run and the youth leader for the Catholic Youth Organization.

Constable Nieto has four children, Jedlin and Christina age 18, Shantelle age 10 and Issiah age 6.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Frio County Constable Ted Nieto for his dedication and service to the community.

#### IN HONOR OF MS. ELEANOR WASSON'S 97TH BIRTHDAY

#### HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate a truly remarkable woman who is celebrating her 97th birthday this month. Ms. Eleanor Wasson, a woman locally known as the "great connector" originally lived in Beverly Hills with her husband, the head of the legal department for 20th Century Fox movie studio. There, Ms. Wasson mingled with friends such as Celeste Holm, Claudette Colbert, Betty White and Will Rogers. In between volunteering, caring for her children, and working as an activist, she was named the Coordinator of Volunteer Services for UCLA, and was also appointed to California Governor Earl Warren's Mental Health Commission.

After her beloved husband, George, passed on, Eleanor decided to sell her home in Santa Monica Canyon and move to Santa Cruz at the age of 81. A woman deeply committed to the community around her, Ms. Wasson has adopted several causes to make the world a better place. She has served on the boards of both Earth Save and Women Rise for Global Peace. Her activism is rooted in her desire to work for peace, having been deeply affected by WWI as a child.

Mrs. Wasson's kindness and acceptance for others is truly legendary. Weekly, she invites both a local Catholic Priest and Robert White Mountain, an elder of the Lakota Tribe, to discuss local and global concerns. While living in Los Angeles, she asked famous actors such as Reginald Denny, Leon Ames, and Tyrone Power to dance with women at the psychiatric ward where she was volunteering her time.

In addition to being a peace activist, a volunteer, and mother, Mrs. Wasson is also an author. She has written a successful autobiography entitled 28,000 Martinis, published in January 2004. In 28,000 Martinis, Mrs.

Wasson's positive and optimistic approach to life is captured, ultimately lending her energy, vibrancy and creativity to all who read the book. Through her own life story, she is able to demonstrate that goodwill, knowledge and action are the keys to enriching one's own life, as well as those around you.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and admiration for this vibrant and loving woman. Eleanor's social and environmental activism and her kindness towards all have infinitely improved the culture and character of the 17th district. I am honored to wish her a happy 97th birthday on behalf of myself, and the community that values and loves her.

#### COMMEMORATING THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

#### HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 90th anniversary of one of history's most terrible tragedies, the Armenian Genocide.

On April 24, 1915, 300 Armenian leaders, intellectuals and professionals were rounded up in Constantinople, deported and killed, under orders from the Young Turk government. This was the beginning of a campaign of terror resulting in the deaths of 1.5 million Armenians and the deportation of more than 500,000.

The government of the Ottoman Empire justified this policy by claiming it was necessary to suppress revolts being launched by Armenians as a consequence of the ongoing military operations of World War I. This assertion was patently denied by survivors and witnesses. United States Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire Henry Morgenthau reported at that time, "Deportation of and excesses against peaceful Armenians is increasing and from harrowing reports of eyewitnesses it appears that a campaign of race extermination is in progress under a pretext of reprisal against rebellion."

Not content with perpetrating this atrocity, the Young Turks denied the genocide had taken place. Generations have since been raised denying this tragedy. Such denials are refuted by the archival documents and firsthand accounts found in such recent scholarly works as Peter Balakian's *The Burning Tigris* and Samantha Power's *A Problem From Hell*. Director Atom Egoyan presented the horror of the siege of Van in his film *Ararat*, which was based, in part, on the memoirs of Clarence Ussher, an American physician and missionary working in Turkey at the time. To those who suggest that this ruthless genocide of a people and culture did not happen, I ask, what further testimony could the world possibly want?

Mr. Speaker, for myself and my constituents, I rise today to urge those who deny this genocide to accept it as fact. Only then can we move forward and stop these atrocities from repeating themselves over and over again.



# HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JIM CARSON

## HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Jim Carson, the Seguin High School Physical Education Teacher and Head Football Coach.

Coach Carson has been teaching for thirty years, two of which were spent with San Antonio Independent School District as head football coach of the Seguin Matadors. Coach Carson received his Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Health from Texas Tech University and a Master's degree from Sul Ross State University. Coach Carson has a special place in his heart for his students, and has made a significant impact on them.

Coach Carson says that the most rewarding part of being an educator is working with young people as they grow into productive citizens. He stresses that guiding and tutoring them through crucial years of their development is a responsibility that should not be taken lightly. He expects the coaches who work for him to not only guide each student through their journey but to take an active part and know what is happening in each student's life. Coach Carson says that as part of a sports coaching program, "tutoring, counseling and listening to whatever the young man or woman needs is provided."

Through his initiative, energy, and commitment, Coach Carson proves to be an exemplary teacher and coach, and a blessing to the people in his high school and community in Seguin. I am pleased to have the chance to honor him here today.

# TRIBUTE TO DOROTHY L. MOORE

## HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to Dorothy L. Moore upon her retirement as Executive Director of the Howard County Community Action Council. A life-long resident of Howard County, Maryland, Dottie has devoted her life to improving our community.

Dottie began her 36-year career with the Community Action Council as a caseworker in 1969. As Executive Director of the agency, she administered an annual budget of \$1.3 million. Dottie was instrumental in developing Howard County's first Senior Programs for African Americans and the first shelter for homeless persons. She also was important in the development of Howard County's first Homeless Care program, Mentoring Program for African-American males, the Family Support Center at Hilltop and Healthy Families Howard County.

One of Dottie's greatest achievements was the 2002 opening of the Dasher Green Head Start Center. Her many community involvements also include serving as chair of the Howard County Human Rights Commission, and, in 2001, she was inducted into the Howard County Women's Hall of Fame.

Dottie has also turned her attention to international concerns. She has been involved in efforts to fight poverty and provide educational opportunities for children in Ghana and Zimbabwe. In 2001, her work was recognized by Ghana when she was crowned Queen Mother of the Bretuo Clan in Asiakwa, where she is spearheading efforts to build a preschool and school.

I urge my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in celebrating the achievements of Dottie Moore. Her commitment and dedication to our community has been an inspiration to all of us.

# HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARISELA GALEANA, MER- CER BLUMBERG LEARNING CEN- TER

## HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the many accomplishments of Marisela Galeana, of the Mercer Blumberg Learning Center of Seguin, Texas.

Ms. Galeana teaches Health, Physical Education, Spanish and English as a Second Language to children in grades nine through twelve at the Learning Center. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology and Health from the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Through her years of teaching Ms. Galeana finds that her most rewarding experience occurred four years ago when one of her students chose to honor her at the high school HERO's dinner, an annual event where top students and student leaders honor the Seguin ISD employee who has had the most positive effect on his or her life. Ms. Galeana said that she was honored, because she did not realize the influence she had on that student. She has said that to this day she has the medal she received hanging on her rear-view mirror.

Ms. Galeana continues to make a difference for her students, helping to turn them into successful lifelong learners. Marisela Galeana is an exemplary teacher, and a blessing to the people of Seguin. She has an excellent career ahead of her, and I wish her the best of luck.

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE AMER- ICAN FORUM FOR GLOBAL EDU- CATION

## HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, at no time in our nation's history have Americans been more connected to the world than we are now—by trade and finance, media and culture, crisis and conflict. Yet there is mounting evidence that today's young students are ill equipped by our education system to serve themselves, or their country, in the international arena. It's no surprise that Bill Gates recently termed America's high schools as "obsolete" and as relevant as a 1950s mainframe computer.

A recent Gallup poll of 13- to 17-year-olds revealed that less than half could link Napoleon, Churchill and Indira Gandhi to their native countries. One in three could not identify Hitler with Germany. A Stanford University study notes that, while high school attendance broadened to near-universal enrollment over the last century, "students' ignorance of history has marched stolidly in place."

Retired IBM Chairman Lou Gerstner noted this perspective when addressing the National Education Summit: "Countries that have better education systems have stronger economies and are tougher competitors in the worldwide marketplace. America, therefore, is not so much becoming a nation of haves and have-nots as we are a nation of educated and uneducated."

I therefore am pleased to honor one organization dedicated to broadening the international focus of our education system, the American Forum for Global Education, which celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. The American Forum has been working to close the ignorance and apathy gap for hundreds of thousands of K-12 students for more than a generation. They have led the nation in shaping American teaching systems and providing opportunities for worldwide interaction and learning.

The American Forum has developed programs in partnership with the United Nations and the U.S. Departments of State and Education; other programs have dispatched scores of teachers and students to China, Turkey, Morocco, Vietnam and other important but relatively neglected outposts.

The American Forum's China Project is an excellent example of the organization's commitment to promoting a 21st century education. It addresses, in part, a Christian Science Monitor editorial citing Chinese as "a critical language . . . Without an emerging generation of Chinese speakers, the U.S. faces growing holes in intelligence gathering, trade relations, and cultural understanding." Chinese is the mother tongue to 874 million people (compared to 341 million who speak English), but far too few American children study it.

China Project participants are notable exceptions. Vanessa Baehr-Jones, a Tufts University graduate who majored in Chinese, is now looking for a government position to utilize her second-language skills. "Without the (American Forum's) China trip," she writes, "I would never have ended up studying the Chinese language." Patrick Franco, an Oxford University graduate, credits the program with his interest in "a career in diplomacy or business that would offer further exposure to China."

Dozens of other young adults who have benefited from American Forum programs here and in far-flung regions overseas now are benefiting the nation, as well as themselves. For 35 years, the American Forum for Global Education has led the way, and I applaud them.

HONORING THE UWCHLAN  
AMBULANCE CORPS

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps for their 30 years of dedicated service to the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

The Uwchlan Ambulance Corps was started in 1975, by a group of Chester County residents who recognized the need for a non-profit volunteer service in their community that could provide emergency medical services for those in need. This motivated group of citizens had a vision to provide critical emergency care to their neighbors and this vision has lived on and thrived throughout the past 30 years.

Today, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps still operates a non-profit organization that provides 24 hour protection from their two community-based stations. They have four Advanced Life Support/Basic Life Support ambulances and two Advanced Life Support paramedic units at their disposal. The Corps prides itself on its keen ability to grow and expand their unit to match the needs of their quickly expanding community.

The Corps covers nearly 45 square miles of territory ranging from rural Chester County to the more heavily developed areas in the community. Of the 70,000 residents and nearly 60,000 visitors and merchants in Chester County, there has been an average of 2,700 calls each year to the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps. With 60 active volunteers and 12 full-time staffers, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps raises the bar in the region for exceptional emergency medical service.

Furthermore, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps has contributed to their community on many different levels. The volunteers work diligently to provide numerous educational opportunities for the community, along with several outreach programs. The Corps also participates in capital campaigns, and building renovations, all of which are successful attempts to ensure the survival of this thriving ambulance corps. They work efficiently and swiftly with the changing needs of their community and in turn provide an outstanding service to the citizens.

Today, the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps prides itself on providing high-quality emergency and medical transportation services to the ill and injured citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring the Uwchlan Ambulance Corps for their commitment to providing quality care, and community service to the region. It is an honor to recognize an organization that selflessly provides for its community each day and in turn creates a better quality of life for the citizens of Chester County, Pennsylvania.

DEMS PLAYING POLITICS WITH  
MAJORITY LEADER DELAY

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Social Security is in major trouble, hundreds of

thousands of Americans still I need the opportunity to obtain health insurance, and much more work must I be done to secure our ports and borders.

Yet the Democrats must have all those important issues solved because they are wasting all their time playing politics and making unsubstantiated accusations against United States House Majority Leader, TOM DELAY.

Like their stance on most important issues, facts seem to matter very little to most Democrats. They have done nothing to help create jobs in this country. Nothing to help lower the cost of health care, nothing to help root out waste, fraud and abuse of the people's money, and to date, have not presented one plan to save Social Security.

Yet they make politically motivated, unsubstantiated accusations without any evidence against Majority Leader DELAY and because they know that an investigation would clear his name, they are now putting up road blocks for the Republicans on the Ethics Committee to do their job.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, your constituents need more from you than this. Voters sent you here for a purpose; I don't think these childish games are what they had in mind.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED  
SERVICE OF COLONEL JOHN R.  
BATES, USMC

**HON. DARRELL E. ISSA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 21, 2005

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 33 years of dedicated service of Colonel John R. Bates to our Nation and the United States Marine Corps.

Colonel Bates dropped out of college in 1966 to enlist in the United States Marine Corps, then Private Bates was trained as both an infantryman and a machine gunner, and deployed to Vietnam where he was assigned to Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines. In Vietnam, he participated in eight major combat operations and many more unnamed battalion and smaller hostile-fire operations. He was wounded in combat three times, the most serious of which resulted in the loss of much of his right lung by an enemy machine-gun round. Bates was promoted to the rank of Sergeant while serving in Southeast Asia. While in Vietnam, he held the billets of Fire Team Leader, Squad Leader, and acting Infantry Platoon Commander. After thirteen months in Vietnam, then-Sergeant Bates was ordered to Camp Pendleton, California, and assigned as a Troop Handler for the 2d Infantry Training Regiment and was subsequently discharged due to medical disabilities attributed to his earlier wounds.

Re-entering college using the GI Bill, state rehabilitation funding, and a disability pension, Bates completed his Bachelor of Science and Education degree, followed by a Master of Science degree from the University of Central Arkansas. In 1975, seven and a half years after his medical discharge, his repeated requests to compete for a commission were granted and in November of that year he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant of Marines at Quantico, Virginia. Upon completion of

the Basic School, he was awarded an infantry MOS and assigned to Charlie Company, 1st Bn, 7th Marines at Camp Pendleton as an infantry platoon commander. Lt. Bates' next assignment was as Service Company Commander at Camp Courtney, Okinawa. Returning to the United States and promoted to Captain, he assumed duty with the 12th Marine Corps District Recruiting Command at Treasure Island, California. His following duty assignment was that of Inspector Instructor for Echo Co, 2nd Bn, 23rd Marines, at San Bruno, California. Promoted to Major, Bates was next assigned to Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii as the "Group Grunt" for Marine Air Group Two-Four. There he flew numerous hours in both fixed wing and rotary wing aircraft. After two years at the MAG, he was assigned Executive Officer for 1st Bn, 3rd Marines, and later as the acting commander of that battalion during Desert Shield and Desert Storm hostilities in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Returning from the Persian Gulf in the spring of 1991, Major Bates was assigned as the S-3, Operations Officer, of The Basic School, Quantico, Virginia, and was subsequently promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Following that assignment, in 1994 LtCol Bates was ordered back to Hawaii and assumed the duties as the G-3 Ground Operations Officer for Marine Forces Pacific, spending much of the time in Korea, Japan and other areas of the Far East.

In 1996, LtCol Bates assumed command of 2nd Bn, 3rd Marines, and deployed the battalion to Okinawa, mainland Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong. Promoted to Colonel in 1998, Bates was transferred to become the Fleet Marine Officer, Second Fleet, in Norfolk, Virginia. In 2000, Col Bates was next assigned to Seventh Fleet, headquartered in Yokosuka, Japan, where he commanded Task Group 71.34, as the Fleet Anti-Terrorism Officer, requiring duty in much of Asia, Australia, New Caledonia and Micronesia.

His present assignment is as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations and Training, Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. In February of 2003, Col Bates assumed the duties as the Liaison Officer for I Marine Expeditionary Force to Marine Forces Central Command in Kuwait, Bahrain and Iraq and participated in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has completed the resident courses of Amphibious Warfare School and the U.S. Marine Corps Command and Staff College. Bates holds life membership in the Disabled American Veterans. He is an avid ultra-distance runner, having completed more than 50 marathons and in 1986 was co-holder of the American Record for the 146-mile run from Badwater, California, (Death Valley) to the summit of Mt. Whitney. He is an experienced and current Military Free-Fall parachutist and civilian USPA "D" licensed skydiver. His personal awards include the Legion of Merit, Purple Heart with two gold stars, the Meritorious Service Medal with two gold stars, the Combat Action ribbon with one gold star, and the Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one gold star. He is married to the former Stephanie Tucker of St. Louis, Missouri. They have one son, 1st Lt. Joshua Rustin Bates, currently the S-3 Alpha for 1st Bn, 7th Marines.

On behalf of the American people whom Colonel Bates spent a career serving, I thank him for his service, honor and commitment to our country.

HONORING ROBERT KERRICK

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay public tribute to a remarkable individual from my home district. Robert Kerrick, principal of Hancock County High School, is retiring this spring, bringing his distinguished 30 year career as an educator to a close.

Before becoming principal, Mr. Kerrick completed a 14 year tenure as a teacher and one year as an assistant principal in the Hancock County school system. During his 15 years as principal, Hancock County High School has been a consistent recipient of academic and athletic honors including CATS Top 10 and Blue Ribbon School distinctions along with numerous state and regional championships in men's and women's team sports. In 2003, Mr. Kerrick received the prestigious Dawson Orman Award from the Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals, naming him Kentucky's most outstanding high school principal.

I applaud Robert Kerrick's accomplishments in public education, an occupation of great responsibility and ever greater reward, motivating young people to recognize and develop their talents and abilities. On behalf of so many in Hancock County, I would like to express my profound appreciation for his service and inspiration to the countless men and women who have benefited from his generosity and vision.

It is my great privilege to recognize Robert Kerrick today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his many achievements as an educator. His unique dedication to the development and well-being of young people and the communities they now serve make him an outstanding citizen worthy of our collective honor and respect.

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**SOCIAL SECURITY PERSONAL SAVINGS GUARANTEE AND PROSPERITY ACT OF 2005**
**HON. PAUL RYAN**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise to introduce new legislation that will ensure Social Security lives up to its promise for all Americans, now and in the future. My legislation, the Social Security Personal Savings Guarantee and Prosperity Act of 2005, will give all workers access to a more prosperous retirement through the establishment of personal savings accounts within the current Social Security system. This voluntary proposal maintains a strong safety net guaranteeing that workers would receive at least as much as Social Security promises under current law, without changing survivors' or disability benefits. Furthermore, this plan achieves full and permanent solvency for Social Security, and reduces debt and payroll taxes over the long term.

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Social Security Trustees Report tells us that beginning in 2017, Social Security will begin to pay out more in ben-

efits than it receives in tax revenues. Then; in 2041, the Social Security Trust Fund will be exhausted. All analysts point to changing demographics as the primary factor driving Social Security into a deeper hole every year. In 1950, there were 16 workers supporting each retiree. Now, with the number of workers supporting each recipient projected to fall from 3.3 today to 2.3 in 2025, the mission is very clear: we must act now to strengthen and sustain Social Security.

By establishing personal accounts within the Social Security system, we can give every American worker the choice of building a nest egg for his or her retirement. With personal retirement accounts, every worker will become a laborer and a capitalist earning a much higher rate of return on their payroll tax dollars than the current system can currently offer them. Furthermore, I firmly believe that there is no better way to bridge the wealth gap and decentralize the concentration of wealth in America than to adopt personal accounts like the ones I am proposing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation not only gives workers a better deal for their retirement, but it is also a blueprint for permanent solvency for Social Security, long-term debt reduction and payroll tax relief for all American workers. This plan works to help control the growth rate of government spending and make sure the short-term Social Security surpluses are devoted to strengthening Social Security instead of other spending. Most importantly, this plan gives every worker the chance to have real wealth and become an owner in our free enterprise system.

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**THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE**
**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge and remember the 90th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, the mass killings and forced exile of countless Armenians in the final days of the Ottoman Empire. The suffering that befell the Armenian people in 1915 is a tragedy for all humanity, which the world should not forget.

In the years since, descendants of Armenian immigrants have clung to their identity and have prospered across this nation and throughout the world. The United States is fortunate to be home to an organized and active Armenian community, whose members contribute and participate in every aspect of civic life.

By properly recognizing the atrocities committed in 1915, we honor America's historic leadership and remind the world of the democratic and humanitarian values on which our country is founded. In this period of heightened international conflicts, this message is most timely.

The United States must never allow crimes against humanity to pass without remembrance and condemnation. As U.S. efforts to aid victims of genocide continue, it is imperative that we pay tribute to the memory of others who have suffered and to never forget the past.

**SMALL BUSINESS HEALTH FAIRNESS ACT OF 2005**
**HON. BARBARA LEE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, my name was placed on H.R. 525, the "Small Business Health Fairness Act of 2005" by mistake, and even though House rules at this point prohibit my removal as a cosponsor, I want to make clear without a shadow of a doubt that I do not support H.R. 525.

I believe access to health care is a basic human right and H.R. 525 in its present form does nothing to make that right a reality. The House voted on Associated Health Plans twice in the 108th Congress and I voted against it both times. If this bill comes to House Floor for a vote again in its present form, I will oppose it.

Although I understand the demands and challenges that small business owners face with regard to providing affordable, comprehensive health care for their employees, H.R. 525 is not the answer.

The answer is putting people before profit in our health care system.

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**CONGRATULATING THE DEL VALLE HIGH SCHOOL CONQUISTADORS ON WINNING THE TEXAS CLASS 4A SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIP**
**HON. SILVESTRE REYES**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, April 16, a group of outstanding young men from my district in El Paso, Texas, won the boys Class 4A Texas high school soccer championship. The Conquistadores of Del Valle High School played against some of the best high school talent in the country, defeating the Aledo Bearcats 3-2.

I would like to congratulate the Conquistadores—Ivan Grajeda, Julian Barbosa, Erick Solis, Irving Gallardo, Robert Macias, Elias Gutierrez, Abelardo Valles, David Camarena, Javier Ruvalcaba, Oscar Herrera, Daniel Lopez, Alberto Rivera, Adrian Muñoz, Juan Rodriguez, Walter Villalobos, Jose Escarcega, Nazael Reynosa, Diego Armando Ruiz, Charles Gonzalez, Alberto Moreno, Hector Picazo, and Alex Villalobos—on their tremendous achievement. The team is coached by Bruce A. Reichman and Oswaldo Vasquez.

The Del Valle Conquistadores displayed a commitment to working together toward a common goal during their state championship season. They won with a remarkable combination of skill, endurance, and teamwork.

Mr. Speaker, over the course of a season, these young men have helped instill a great sense of pride in their school and the entire community. El Paso is truly proud of its champions. I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating the Del Valle High School Conquistadores on their victory.

RECOGNIZING SAN JACINTO DAY  
2005

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, today marks the Battle of San Jacinto, the victory of independence for Texas from Mexico—the greatest State in the Union in my opinion. This day reminds the world that Texans refuse oppression from any source.

On April 21, 1836, 169 years ago, approximately 900 Texans and Tejanos volunteers overpowered a larger, professional Mexican army. Today, Texans are celebrating all day at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site in our congressional district, including impressive historic re-enactments.

Less than 100 years after American patriots threw off the tyrannical British Empire's military domination, Texans and Tejanos succeeded in a similar struggle against a military dictator, General Santa Anna.

In the words of the Texas Declaration of Independence, the people's government had been "forcibly changed, without their consent, from a restricted federative republic, composed of sovereign states, to a consolidated central military despotism."

Military dictatorships are the world's most notoriously evil governments and the moral justification for the Texas Revolution is equally applicable to certain countries today. Unfortunately, as Texans know, freedom requires great sacrifice.

After the tragedy at the Alamo, Texan and Tejano forces retreated, but in late April 1836, they took a stand on the banks of the bayous outside Houston, Texas.

As a result of their bravery, the nation, and then the State of Texas were born. Like the American Revolution, the Texan Revolution brought many different people together fighting military oppression.

The Texas Revolution proves the bands of freedom are stranger than ethnicity, as many Tejanos proved at Gonzalez, Bexar, Goliad, the Alamo, along the banks of the San Jacinto River, and in the government of the Republic of Texas.

Like on July 4th, on San Jacinto Day Texans celebrate the achievements of our patriots, and give thanks for our opportunity to have representative government.

Thank you Mr. Speaker, God bless Texas.

COMMEMORATING THE 35TH  
ANNIVERSARY OF EARTH DAY

**HON. HILDA L. SOLIS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Earth Day.

I have seen first hand the damage that environmental injustices bring to poor and underserved communities. Growing up in Los Angeles County, my community was plagued by bad air and industrial wasteland. In Los Angeles, 60 percent of the facilities that produce the most toxic waste are located in minority and low-income communities. My predomi-

nantly Latino district is spoiled by dozens of abandoned gas stations with leaking fuel tanks, four Superfund sites, 17 gravel pits, and one of the country's most polluted watersheds.

The environmental issues I focus on all have one thing in common—they directly affect our health. As a public servant, one of my goals is to make sure that our environment is protected, restored, and most importantly, safe for our families, wherever they live.

Since he first took office in 2001, President Bush's policies have hurt our health, worsened our air quality, and destroyed the quality of our drinking water. Worse, President Bush refuses to make polluters pay for the cleanup of these sites at all, and the cleanups that are occurring are being paid for by the taxpayers.

The administration's misguided policies, like Clear Skies, will worsen our air quality, increasing asthma, bronchitis and lost days at work across the country. This policy will do nothing to help and everything to harm the over 70 percent of all Latinos and African Americans who live in counties that violate federal air pollution standards. As a result, the 35,000 cases of asthma in the San Gabriel Valley will increase, and there will be 14,000 more lost days of work and 175 more cases of bronchitis in Los Angeles County.

As we observe Earth Day 2005, it is critical that we continue to fight to make sure future generations are healthy, their air quality is safe and they have a secure supply of drinking water.

MARIE SMITH TURNS 50

**HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 21, 2005*

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, Marie Smith, my dear wife of 27 years and mother of our four wonderful children, turns 50 on Monday, April 25.

And although I've known, deeply loved and cherished Marie for more than three decades, I find that mere words are inadequate to convey just how remarkable, unique and special she is.

She's amazing.

Marie Smith is a strong woman of abiding faith in Christ, rock solid character, generosity and goodness. She radiates the love and compassion of Christ to family, friends and strangers alike with a gentle piety and grace. She has class and self-confidence yet is humble and extremely kind. She always looks out for the underdog—especially a child left behind.

Marie has a great sense of humor and always makes people feel at ease and welcome. I just love the way she laughs and smiles. She is my best friend—and I love her so.

Marie and I met in 1974 at a prayer meeting at college. For me, it was love at first sight. For her, well, it took a while. We worked on pro-life issues—she eventually became president of the organization—and early on recognized the life changing core value found in Matthew's Gospel, the 25th chapter, when Jesus said "Whatsoever you do to the least of My brethren, you do unto Me." We grew to understand that God Himself identified with—was one with—anyone, anywhere who was

weak, vulnerable, unwanted or disenfranchised. That meant unborn babies killed by abortion, their moms, the hungry, trafficked women, the homeless, disabled and sick persons and others who are being exploited or are at risk. That meant all of the "least" were all of infinite value and worth to God. It revolutionized our private and public lives.

An honor student in both high school and college and a voracious reader, Marie is very smart and has that rare quality that enables her to grasp, understand and solve complex problems. She often "sleeps on a problem" and awakes in the morning with the answer. She is very creative and effectively thinks both inside and outside the box. Her advice and counsel over the years have been priceless.

In the early years, Marie worked as a first grade teacher at St. Hedwig's School in Trenton and thrived on it before devoting herself fulltime to the upbringing of our kids. Today, she works for Feminists for Life and pours herself into efforts to protect women and children from violence and cruelty.

Our two girls and two boys richly benefited from Marie's warmth, kindness and dedication. She was always there for them. Always. Melissa, Chris, Mike and Elyse always knew—and know—beyond a shadow of a doubt that they were number one in her life—our lives—and that there were no favorites in our household.

Marie is the quintessential multi-tasker—teacher, nurse, chef and homework checker as well as soccer, baseball, lacrosse and basketball Mom.

Our kids have always known, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that they are much loved, much wanted, much cared for and much prayed for. It is both a comfort and encouragement to know that Marie intercedes for and gives thanks to the Lord unceasingly for our family and our friends.

Our kids greatly value and appreciate their mother, and I now defer to them to elaborate:

This April 25th, I am so happy to celebrate my mom's 50th birthday. The world is certainly a better place because of her! Mom has been the steady rock in my and my siblings' lives—always there with an answer, suggestion, open ear, love and support. She sincerely mourns our disappointments and enthusiastically celebrates our accomplishments. Mom has helped me find my way through the many choices and challenges that are inevitable in the formative years, and as a married adult now, I still often seek her advice, and will continue to do so.

Mom's "can-do" outlook makes anything possible, whether it's a stubborn word problem, science fair project, search for the perfect prom dress, or wedding centerpieces. She always poses thoughtful suggestions and selflessly offers help until the task is done or the decision is made. Her patience and flexibility are unceasing, or at least always seem to be!

Mom brings special touches into everyday life—notes in lunches, candy found in a suitcase while traveling, favorite treats for no reason, and thoughtful unexpected gestures that remind me just how much she really knows me. Holidays and special occasions are always made extra special, the essential part being that the family is together. I have learned from my mom the value of family, and the importance of unconditional love and total faith in Christ.

In our house my mom had a sign that read, "Home is where the heart is." And while I love the house I grew up in, I know that "home" will always be where Mom is—for

she is the heart of our family.—Melissa Smith Clement.

The way Mom tucked me in at night always brought pleasant dreams.

On waking, my groggy head would hear her laughter and wonder, “How is anyone so joyful in the morning?”

Throughout the day I would watch her with affection. Her love went into even the simplest of things. I was always moved by the tenderness with which she read a book, folded a shirt, or made a sandwich.

Now when I hear her laugh, it conveys her innocence; the years must make her younger. Do you see the confidence in her stride? The years must make her wiser. Judging by the length of her smile, her heart must be growing bigger.

I celebrate my mom on this day in April, celebrate my mom every day.—Chris Smith.

The most reliable and compassionate. The most outgoing and joyous. My mother is more than I could ask for. She has always given everything she possibly could without a second thought. She has always gone above and beyond to show her love for my siblings and me. I love her so much and wish her a happy birthday!—Mike Smith.

This week, we will be celebrating the 50th birthday of my mom. For 50 years she has brought love and joy to each person she has met, most especially her family. Her gentle kindness and patient understanding communicates her deep love for her family. She does not just take care of our family physically, but spiritually and emotionally. I cannot count how many times she was the shoulder to cry on when one of us kids had a bad day, or how many words of praise she showered us

with when we did well in school or in sports. She is always there with words to guide us in our lives and in our faith.

As I have grown older, I have come to realize what an intelligent, wise and loving woman Mom is. Each day she gives of herself for our family and sets an example for us a Christ-centered life. She inspires us to turn to God and trust in His care. Mom is not afraid to stand up for her beliefs, and she has dedicated her life to living the Gospel of Christ. It is impossible to adequately describe the love and care which Mom selflessly gives each day. I feel sincerely blessed to call such a wonderful woman “mom” and I pray that she will have many more birthdays in the years to come. I love you Mom!—Elyse Smith.